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Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Nuclear Issues

ITAR-TASS on a news conference given by Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov on the results of his visit the United States. On the subject of nuclear arms, Morozov stated, "Ukraine is ready to implement all commitments under the agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive arms and to adhere to the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons," but during the process, "Ukraine insists upon having the status of an equal side."

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk will sign an interstate treaty with Russia, Byelarus, Kazakhstan and the United States on the elimination of nuclear weapons if three conditions are met, Russian Television reports, if the "world community supports the states nonnuclear policy, provides financial assistance, and guarantees the security of a disarmed Ukraine."

Moscow Radio reports that Byelarusian Defense Minister Lieutenant General Pavel Kozlovskiy announced that "all nuclear weapons will be withdrawn from the republic in the next few months." They will then be transported to Russia for "subsequent destruction."

Crimean Division of Powers Agreed Upon

UKRINFORM reports that the draft law on the division of powers between Ukraine and Crimea was passed by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. The draft law states, "the Republic of Crimea is an autonomous part of Ukraine and solves the issues that fall within its competence independently", "the territory of the republic cannot be changed or handed over by Ukraine...without agreement to this by the people of the Republic of Crimea", "the republic independently forms relations with other states and international organizations" and "Ukraine...acts as a guarantor of state sovereignty of the Republic of Crimea."

Armenian Statement on Russia

INTERFAX reports that the Armenian "Supreme Council accused the Russian leadership of transferring arms and ammunition to Azerbaijan." The statement noted Russia's decision to transfer 25% of the Caspian Flotilla to Azerbaijan "'violates the principles of the CIS's formation.'" The Russian actions were described as "'very dangerous, unfriendly and running contrary to the ... agreement signed by Armenia and Russia last December."

Nagorno-Karabakh Refuses Talks Date

Nagorno-Karabakh officials said that "they cannot accept the date suggested by Russia for a conference on settlement," reports INTERFAX. The conference was to be held 23-24 April. The Supreme Soviet discussed Iran's "preferable" mediation conditions over those of Russia.

Yerevan Radio reports that "Russia is sacrificing the population of Nagorno-Karabakh to its political objective of establishing a regime in Azerbaijan that is subservient to Russia's policies," and that "Russia always displays a so-called principled and severe stand whenever Armenia tries to get some CIS military hardware."

Lithuanian Prime Minister May Resign

Vilnius International reports on "conflicting information" concerning "the intention of Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius" to resign. "Government Secretary Kestutis Cilinskas...said at an interview with the government newspaper LIETUVOS AIDAS that Gediminas Vagnorius will now tender his resignation at the parliament sitting next Tuesday [28 April]. This was confirmed by Deputy Prime Minister Vytautas Pakalniskis..." However, Vilnius Radio reports that at a meeting with representatives of public organizations, "Gediminas Vagnorius stated that there was no crisis in the Lithuanian Government and he did not intend to resign."

Kravchuk Sets Conditions for Interstate Treaty

LD2204164492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Apr 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] President Kravchuk has declared that Ukraine will sign an interstate treaty with Russia, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan and the United States on the elimination of nuclear weapons on three conditions: If the world community supports the state's nonnuclear policy, provides financial assistance, and guarantees the security of a disarmed Ukraine.

Ukraine Reacts to Russian Role in START

OW2204163992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry issued an explanation Wednesday [22 April] in connection with a statement made by the director of the Department of Information and Press of the Russian Foreign Ministry Sergey Yastrzhembskiy. At a briefing in Moscow Tuesday [21 April] Yastrzhembskiy said that Ukraine supports increasing the participants in the START treaty between the former USSR and the United States.

The statement of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry says that Ukraine is prepared to comply with the agreement as it applies to its territory and proposed that the four nuclear states of the former USSR support a unified agreement.

In addition the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said that Russia's aim to be the only party to the treaty and the only state to oversee its enforcement is unacceptable to Ukraine.

Byelorussia Arms To Be Withdrawn in 'Few Months'

LD2304093992 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Lieutenant General Pavel Kozlovskiy, who has been appointed Byelorussian defense minister, has announced that all nuclear weapons will be withdrawn from the republic in the next few months. They will be taken to Russia for subsequent destruction.

NATO Statement on CIS Nuclear Destiny Eyed

LD2204225592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Yuriy Solton commentary]

[Text] The NATO administration in Brussels has issued a statement expressing serious concern over the destiny of the nuclear weapons deployed on the ex-Soviet Union's territory. Here is a commentary by Yuriy Solton.

This statement reminds of trust as the most important element of normal inter-state relations. The newly independent states set up on the fragments of the collapsed Soviet empire have been making their first steps on the international arena. Money is being given to them in advance and it depends on their further behavior how smoothly they will integrate into the world community. The statement points out that, recognizing the independence of former Soviet nuclear republics, Western allies hope to see them joining the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as nuclear-free states. That no progress has been reached in this direction is alarming, the statement says.

Earlier, the heads of the four former Soviet nuclear states—Russia, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine—agreed that Russia alone would preserve a nuclear status. The rest are to move all tactical nuclear weapons available to the Russian territory for destruction by 1 July. Kazakhstan has already finished the job and Byelorussia is making its best to keep up with the schedule. As far as Ukraine is concerned, it's not clear whether it will manage to get through in the remaining two months after suspending the transfer of missiles several weeks ago. The fate of the strategic weapons the three republics are to get rid of within two years is also vague, with Kazakhstan taking a wait and see position. Byelorussia believing it will need more time and Ukraine keeping silent on the matter, which may be even more dangerous since Kiev also lays claims to the Black Sea Fleet, partly equipped with strategic nuclear weapons.

It looks like Ukraine is willing to become a full-fledged signatory to the START treaty, which would be a flagrant violation of the principle of nuclear non-proliferation. Russia, for its part, has been doing all possible to provide for the realization of the earlier-reached agreements, being guided neither by ambition nor by considerations of prestige. The nuclear status is a heavy burden for it to bear, but as long as even a hypothetical probability [as heard] of a nuclear conflict remains, Russia will have to keep nuclear weapons, although it firmly intends to fulfill its obligations on maximum nuclear arms reduction and observe the principle of openness in scrapping nuclear arsenals.

It remains to be seen whether the leaders of the three other former Soviet nuclear republics will overcome the temptation to use the nuclear factor for their self-establishment on the international arena. The NATO statement points out that the presence of nuclear weapons in these republics and the nuclear testing activity which used to be carried out there cannot serve as the reason for treating them as nuclear powers.

Koltunov on Preparations for START Treaty

LD2104095192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] The Russian parliament is considering the Soviet-American treaty on reducing strategic armaments signed in 1991 and is getting ready to ratify it. Our correspondent was told at the general staff of the Commonwealth

Unified Forces that practical moves have been taken to prepare for the treaty's implementation. And here are more details from the Deputy Chief of the General Staff Department Maj. Gen. Viktor Koltunov.

[Begin Koltunov recording in Russian fading to English translation] Russia has rich experience in realizing the treaty on small and medium range missiles. It also has qualified personnel. True, the START treaty is much more complicated but we have already carried out part of the preparatory measures for the treaty's realization. We are preparing to take further steps stipulated by the treaty and there are obstacles in the way since nuclear weapons are deployed in the four former republics of the Soviet Union—Russia, Ukraine, Byelarus, and Kazakhstan. [end recording]

Ukraine has announced the desire to become a party to the treaty. This may change the text of the treaty and its essence, therefore the United States insists on the bilateral nature of the treaty. At present the republics are searching for a way out of the situation at all levels. Recently a foreign ministers' conference of the four nuclear Commonwealth states was held. Though it has yielded no concrete results Maj. Gen. Viktor Koltunov appears to be optimistic.

[Begin Koltunov recording in Russian fading to English translation] I maintain the participants left the meeting with a determination to finally solve this problem. The sides understand that if the treaty is not ratified no-one gains, neither Russia nor Ukraine, nor Kazakhstan, nor Byelarus, nor the international community in general. I hope therefore the sides will find a way out. [end recording]

Japan Calls For Denuclearization of Republics

*LD2204134192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1310 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo April 22 TASS—The Japanese Foreign Ministry has called for an early denuclearisation of

Ukraine, Byelarus and Kazakhstan, which must become nuclear-weapons-free states.

A statement, released here today on behalf of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's press secretary, expresses the hope that Russia, as successor of the former Soviet Union, will honour the commitments stipulated in the nuclear weapons non-proliferation treaty. At the same time, the Japanese Foreign Ministry expresses the hope that all the other nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, particularly Ukraine, Byelarus and Kazakhstan, where nuclear weapons are now deployed, will join this treaty promptly as nuclear-weapons-free states.

India Fears 'Scattered' Nuclear Command

*LD2204220592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1128 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Kuznetsov]

[Text] New Delhi April 22 TASS—"The Soviet Union's break-up and changes in Eastern Europe may unpredictably affect the military balance and increase the danger linked with what countries will possess nuclear weapons," says an annual report released by the Indian Defence Ministry.

"The dialogue on disarmament, started between the United States and countries-successors of the USSR, raises hopes that new agreements will bring about a gradual bilateral liquidation of all types of mass destruction weapons," the document notes.

At the same time, the Soviet Union's transformation is fraught with dangerous consequences and has produced "several potential areas of tension, because the disintegration process has led to the emergence of de facto nuclear states. The huge Soviet strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons arsenal is under scattered command and control."

U.S. Reportedly Plans To Launch 'Spy Satellite'*LD2204153992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0802 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Text] Moscow, April 22 TASS—The United States is going to launch one more satellite for spying on the CIS member states, the TASS-MINTEL service learned from well-informed sources.

According to the sources, it is planned to put on the near-Earth orbit the Ferret-D space vehicle with the help of the Titan-2 carrier rocket off the U.S. western test site (the Vandenberg Air Force Base) on April 24. It will be used for radiotechnical reconnaissance.

A similar space vehicle was launched by the U.S. on September 5, 1988. A year later, on September 6, 1989, the U.S. made an attempt to launch another spy satellite of this type. However, the launching was not successful because of some technical failure, and several days later, on September 13, the second satellite ceased to exist. It burned in the thick layers of the atmosphere.

Former USSR States Seek NATO Membership*PM2304105092 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 18 Apr 92 p 3*

[A. Baryshev article: "Victors and Vanquished? How and Why Former USSR Republics Long To Join NATO"]

[Text] World public attention was recently drawn to an event which marks a very important stage in the implementation of the plans cherished by NATO circles to establish rigid control over the armed forces of the CIS and East European states. I am referring to the first meeting of chiefs of general staffs of NATO and East European countries, held in Brussels 10-11 April. Participating in it were Marshal Ye. Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, and all the members of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council. I will remind you that this organ was set up in accordance with a decision of last November's session of the North Atlantic alliance in Rome. East European states, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia were admitted to the council in December. At the recent March session of the council in Brussels this honor was conferred upon Russia, Ukraine, Byelarus, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. (It is proposed that Georgia will become a council member later this year).

"If you can't beat 'em, join 'em." A REUTERS commentator recalled this aphorism on the eve of the Brussels meeting. This, in fact, is what has happened. Indeed, what possibility can there be of victory for the former USSR and its allies when both have simply vanished as geopolitical realities in accordance with the predictions of well-known kremlinologists—Brzezinski, Pipes, and Conquest? The Warsaw Pact has passed away. The cold war has been won by the West (this is what people say in the offices of Washington's White House, not batting an eyelid).

This means that, following the wisdom of the aforementioned aphorism, it only remains to join those whom only quite recently we were keeping in our gun sights. To all appearances, there is no shortage of such wishes. Hungary, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, and Poland are particularly keen to stand beneath the NATO emblem with the polestar. Our former "brothers in arms" bluntly declare that their need for security can be satisfied now only by NATO membership. The Russian leadership does not lag far behind them either.

But it is here that everything proves more complex. The Brussels headquarters of the North Atlantic alliance is in no hurry to allocate offices to former enemies. The Western press has pointed out: "NATO, which is already living through a confused time as a result of the disappearance of the Soviet threat, once its chief *raison d'être*, does not wish to receive new members yet." But for various reasons the NATO generals also evidently do not wish to let them go.

Of course, it would be wrong to see the new NATO establishment just as an abstract toothless decorative organ or as some kind of debating society. A great deal is concealed behind its facade. If we speak of the military aspect of the matter, there is, above all, the West's concern at the future fate of the 1990 treaty on the limitation of conventional arms in Europe. It is in jeopardy because of disagreements in connection with the arguments over the shares of arms owing to the former republics of the Union within the former Soviet Army. Washington and other Western capitals are getting a serious headache because of uncertainty over the status of the former USSR's nuclear weapons.

It is through the Cooperation Council that NATO would like to attract the East European countries and all the former Soviet republics to itself (as second-class partners), to keep under control all military questions connected with them, and to influence their policy.

The council has also been formed because of special concern at the new state formations on the territory of the former USSR, above all in the Transcaucasus and Central Asia. There is an explanation for this. It is known that Western politicians are looking with ever greater apprehension on the increasingly active Muslim world. After all, there are 60 million Muslims on the territory of the former USSR! In the opinion of the Iranian newspaper KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, "Washington and its allies would like to see them in a state of permanent dependence and backwardness."

NATO political circles are perfectly well aware that inadequate attention to them could be exploited without delay (as is already being done) by neighboring Iran, Pakistan, and other Muslim forces of an anti-Western fundamentalist nature.

There evidently is not very great hope in a Western-oriented Turkey, which NATO would like to see as a connecting link with the new Transcaucasian-Central Asian political world

and which would like to be a potential protector of all the Turkic-speaking states of the former USSR.

It is also a noteworthy fact that the new organ is being assiduously publicized, mainly in Washington, as some kind of foundation of a future European security system. This is also creating questions among the European allies of the United States. What, then, is the role of the CSCE and its structures? Why is the Western European Union [WEU], this bloc within a bloc, needed?

Of course, the Old World cannot fail to put Washington's strengthening leadership on its guard. It is no coincidence that France, which left the NATO joint military command 25 years ago, is voicing serious reservations about the actions of the alliance, which go far beyond its original mandate, in order to act as a defensive alliance for Europe. In cooperation with Germany it is seeking to breathe new life into the now inactive WEU, so that the European Community can have its own security system in the future and so that Europe will not be so dependent on the United States. I believe that Paris, London, and Bonn all take the right view of Washington's plan to expand NATO's sphere of operation through the structure of the Cooperation Council and, by preserving its own leading role in this alliance, to advance the idea of a "pax Americana" into the plane of practical fulfillment in the Eurasian direction with the help of "second-class" or associate members of the organization. Camouflaging this idea with calls to create some kind of new security system "from Vancouver to Vladivostok" probably does not help either.

But Europe is Europe, and we should be more worried about the fact that they are demanding that Russia seriously curtail the military potential which it has inherited both through of the council and outside it. This not only threatens it with the loss of a vast quantity of arms and the weakening of its own defense but makes the overall military balance of forces unfavorable for it, particularly in the European part of the former USSR. At the same time the NATO countries are maintaining the levels of their armed forces and arms, which are substantially in excess of the requirements of defense stability and still possess a strong offensive potential in terms of their characteristics.

OPEC Denies Attempts To Recruit CIS

LD2204164192 Vienna OPECNA in English 1615 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Vienna, 22 April (OPECNA)—OPEC today dismissed a news agency report saying that it is trying to recruit the republics of the former Soviet Union as new members.

A spokesman at the organization's secretariat based here expressed surprise, saying that the claim came "completely out of the blue", since no overtures at all had been made by any party.

The report, carried by the normally reliable 'REUTER' news agency, quoted a United States energy department official, George Helland, as saying that Russia had "signed the OPEC agreement, but it has not been ratified by the parliament".

Helland added that Armenia had "agreed terms", while other republics, such as Kazakhstan and Ukraine, were "fairly close" to signing an agreement with OPEC.

The organization had submitted a "working agreement to all the states of the former Soviet Union," claimed Helland, adding mysteriously: "Despite OPEC's pursuit, some areas of the CIS are experiencing fuel shortages.

"It is difficult to take such a claim seriously, especially if one considers that Armenia, like the majority of the CIS republics, is not an oil producer, let alone an oil exporter," said Dr. Mohammed al-Sahlawi, head of the OPECNA and information department at the secretariat.

"And since we have made no such approach to any of the CIS states, nor they to us, I am unable to locate a grain of truth in the story.

"Similar reports surface from time to time, linking OPEC to other oil producers, but they were as well-founded in fact as this latest one," he said.

"To set the record straight, OPEC values good relations with all oil producers, irrespective of their size. Thursday [23 April], for example, we are sitting down with IPEC (the group of Independent Petroleum Exporting Countries) to seek ways of extending cooperation on environmental issues, as well as holding a discussion on the oil market."

These discussions, said al-Sahlawi, would include representatives of several of the CIS republics, such as Kazakhstan, along with officials from the Canadian Province of Alberta, together with Norway, Oman and Mexico, among others.

"However, we have no secret agenda for the kind of recruiting drive which is implied in Mr. Helland's comment," said the OPEC official.

Commonwealth

Central Asian Republic Heads Meet in Bishkek

Akayev Welcomes Leaders

LD2204144992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT
22 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A conference of the region's heads of states began in Bishkek today. Aircraft from Alma-Ata, Tashkent and Ashkhabad landed at the Manas airport, in the Kyrgyz capital, at brief intervals. The aircraft from Dushanbe failed to arrive due to the difficulties which have appeared over there.

Askar Akayev welcomed Nursultan Nazarbayev, Islam Karimov and Saparmurad Niyazov. This evening the delegations are working in Akayev's suburban residence behind closed doors. Journalists, and there are more than 100 accredited there, are not admitted to the residence.

There is quite a considerable variety of priorities and approaches in the region as well as different levels of socio-political stability. It would be good to find a common language regarding the problems of pricing and credit policy, the degree of transparency of borders, the principles of a structural transformation of the economy and to agree on the work of national banks and the mechanism of payments in accordance with interstate accords. The Kyrgyz side has proposed adoption of a common statement on protecting the rights and interests of national minorities.

Other participants at the meeting obviously have their proposals, too. The main part of the meeting will take place tomorrow. A package of agreements will be signed. A news conference has been scheduled.

Leaders Discuss Aims

LD2204224892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1422 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Sergey Podyapolskiy and Vasilii Titov]

[Text] Bishkek, 22 April (ITAR-TASS)— It would be incorrect to view the meeting of the leaders of the countries of Central Asia and Kazakhstan as an attempt to set up a separate bloc within the Commonwealth of Independent States to the detriment of the other participants in the Commonwealth, Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov declared today. Talking to journalists on arrival in Bishkek, where this meeting is taking place, he stressed: "We have always held consultations at the most difficult moments and coordinated our stances, but this has never been aimed against any side." He said that the task of the participants in the meeting is to help to strengthen the Commonwealth.

The region of Central Asia and Kazakhstan is a part of the economic space of the CIS, Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev believes. "By strengthening our cooperation and simultaneously creating a market economy infrastructure in this region, we are strengthening the common market space of the Commonwealth," he said.

In the opinion of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, the need for the meeting is obvious, for it is absolutely unjustifiable to remain a passive observer in the present complex situation. He did not rule out the possibility that other problems, including the situation in Afghanistan, will also be discussed at the conference, in addition to economic issues. "We intend to exchange views on many topical matters," the leader of Kazakhstan noted.

Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyeu did not come to the meeting due to illness. Therefore, that republic is being represented by First Deputy Prime Minister Tukhtabay Ghafarov.

According to Askar Akayev, he had a talk in the morning with Rakhman Nabiyeu, who stated that he agrees fully with the content of the documents which will be considered at the meeting.

Further Comment on Goals

OW2204164792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1602 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of Turkmemistan Saparmurad Niyazov said at the Bishkek airport Wednesday [22 April] upon his arrival to participate in the meeting of heads of state from Central Asia and Kazakhstan that the meeting is directed at "coordinating the policies of republics on a wide range of problems". Niyazov added that issues which "each republic cannot decide on its own" will be discussed.

In an interview with "Interfax" President of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev emphasized that the purpose of the Bishkek meeting is "to strengthen the Commonwealth, not the reverse". Akayev also said that in a telephone conversation the Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyeu stated the Tajik republic's willingness to join the agreements to be presented at the meeting and were agreed upon by expert groups.

The President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov said in an interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] that the heads of state participating in the meeting shared "similar" views on the documents.

Attendants, Agreements Viewed

OW2204173492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1718 GMT 22 Apr 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] DELEGATIONS

Kazakhstan, President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Sergey Tereshenko.

Turkmenistan, President Saparmurad Niyazov and deputy prime ministers Nazar Suyunov, Matkarim Rajapov, and Valeriy Ogurtsov.

Uzbekistan, President Islam Karimov and Deputy Prime Minister Muhamadjon Karabayev.

Kyrgyzstan, President Askar Akayev, Prime Minister Tursunbek Chyngyshev, and Vice-President Feliks Kulov.

Tajikistan's delegation has the status of observer and consists of a group of experts led by First Deputy Prime Minister Tukhtabay Ghafarov.

IF [INTERFAX] note: Earlier it was expected that the Tajik delegation would be led by President Rakhman Nabiyev, then it was reported it would be led by Vice-President Narzullo Dustov, but later on it was announced that Tajikistan would send no official delegation at all. Gafarov has no powers to sign any of the summit documents. The reasons given for the absence of Nabiyev and Dustov are the complicated situation in the republic and Nabiyev's illness (he has been ill for over a week now).

SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

This afternoon (April 22) the delegations are holding meetings in the government building in Ala-Archa. The official meeting will be opened tomorrow. The agenda includes discussions on agreements on coordinated measures to restructure the economies of the participant states, on the institution of an interstate investment fund, and on a coordinated price policy. The delegations are also expected to discuss the results of expert surveys on cooperation in social security policy, an agreement on principles for transport cooperation, and protocols on the participation of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan in the agreement on the coordination of railway transportation between Kazakhstan and Russia signed in Uralsk on March 23, 1992. The meeting will also deal with measures to carry out the agreements on borders.

The presidents will apparently sign a memorandum the draft of which we give below.

IF note: The drafts for all the documents have already been approved by experts.

One of the main drafts to be considered by the summit is that for an agreement on principles for legal cooperation among Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The document is expected to provide for the coordination of the work of law-enforcement bodies and other legal establishments of the signatory republics, for efficient criminal legislation, for

better legal services for the population, and for improvements in legal education. The draft formulates the following priority fields for cooperation: drafting and systematization of legislation; exchange of information and experience between law-enforcement bodies; rendering of legal assistance in civil, family, labor, and criminal cases; fighting organized crime, terrorism, transport offenses, and illegal drug traffic; national and state security, and training of lawyers.

Commenting on the draft in an interview given to our correspondent, the chairman of the legislation committee of the Uzbek parliament, Erkin Khalilov, said concrete forms of cooperation will be formulated by agreements on mutual legal assistance. Such agreements can be signed by legal, research, or educational establishments.

Package of Documents Approved

LD2204181492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1704 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Sergey Podyapolskiy and Vasily Titov]

[Text] Bishkek, 22 April (ITAR-TASS)—The leaders of the Central Asian states and Kazakhstan have been able to resolve practically all the matters submitted for discussion at their two-day meeting in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. The meeting, which was being held today behind closed doors at the residence of Askar Akayev, president of Kyrgyzstan, agreed upon the text of a joint statement by the participants which they intend to sign tomorrow.

A package of documents prepared for signing was approved as a whole by the presidents, and the experts were instructed to finalize the work on certain agreements. It is proposed that the heads of government of the Central Asian states and Kazakhstan will tomorrow sign an agreement on pursuing a coordinated policy in the sphere of the restructuring of the economy, an agreement on setting up an interstate investment fund, an agreement on pursuing a coordinated policy in the realm of pricing, a protocol of intent to implement an accord between the participant states on border issues, and also certain other documents.

The ITAR-TASS correspondents have been informed that in addition to economic cooperation matters, today's meeting also discussed political issues, including the situation in the region and CIS problems. The meeting's participants were unanimous in the view that the Commonwealth needs to be preserved and strengthened on the basis of mutual equality.

Draft Notes Lack of Cooperation

OW2204175092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1718 GMT 22 Apr 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The draft document emphasizes that the lack of efficient mechanisms for cooperation between CIS states is making it difficult to carry out any of the measures planned, hampering the reaching of agreements and putting economic ties between republics in jeopardy. The CIS should be strengthened and urgently needs mechanisms ensuring its efficient functioning.

Kazakhstan and the republics of Central Asia should coordinate their measures to restructure their economies and remove any obstacles to the development of their relations.

These republics should also pool their investments for the implementation of major international projects in the region, such as the construction of the Tengiz-Kumkol oil pipeline, the renovation of the Rogun hydro power station, or the revival of the Aral Sea.

In order to help national banks coordinate their monetary and credit policies and facilitate their efforts to stabilize the ruble, CIS states should form an interbank union. Kazakhstan and the Central Asian republics should have a mechanism for mutual payments and coordinate their price policies, for which purpose their governments should sign an agreement listing the major types of goods the maximum prices for which will be established by bilateral interstate agreements.

These states should protect the rights and freedoms of all citizens regardless of their race or nationality, help preserve the cultural and religious identity of each nation and ethnic group in the region, and guarantee their equality.

Delegation Member Interviewed

OW2204174192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1718 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview with IF [INTERFAX], a member of the Tajik expert commission, Deputy Economics and Finance Minister Anvar Muzafarov, stressed the fact that the Bishkek summit is mainly concerned with economic cooperation within a common market comprising Central Asia and Kazakhstan.

The documents that will be signed in the course of the meeting will not contradict any of the agreements signed within the CIS framework and can provide a basis for cooperation among all CIS republics.

Commenting on the draft agreement on a coordinated policy in the restructuring of the economies of the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan, Muzafarov said the sides sought to establish a single regional market and therefore could not accept any restrictions on the movement of commodities or services. They had decided to abolish them within the period agreed on. He thought all these restrictions, which the republics had introduced in order to protect their consumer markets, would be removed. But he did not say when this might

happen, simply remarking that all the republics should take the measure simultaneously.

Speaking about the presidents' memorandum, Muzafarov said the republics sought to strengthen and develop their good-neighborly, mutually beneficial economic and cultural ties. But they also wanted a stronger CIS.

Statement on Cooperation Signed

LD2304083492 Moscow Programma Radio Odin
Network in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan signed a joint statement today on the results of their meeting in Bishkek. The states of Central Asia and Kazakhstan intend to utilize principles of close cooperation. The sides recognize each other's territorial integrity and the inviolability of the existing borders between them.

Joint Statement Detailed

LD2304095192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0905 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By special ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Bishkek, 23 Apr—The two-day meeting of heads of state of Central Asia and Kazakhstan ended in the capital of Kyrgyzstan today with the signing of a joint statement. The meeting was devoted above all to a discussion of economic cooperation issues among the republics of the region that belong to the CIS.

The presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan took part in a conference held behind closed doors. The Tajik president was unable to attend due to illness, so this republic was represented by First Deputy Prime Minister Tukhtaboy Ghafarov, who had nonvoting status.

The final statement signed by the four presidents stresses that the new relations between the countries in the region are conditioned by the geographic and cultural similarities of the peoples and do not run counter to the obligations of the Central Asian states and Kazakhstan within the CIS or to the developing ties with the world community. The participants in the meeting stressed their commitment to establishing and strengthening the Commonwealth.

The final document stresses the particular need to observe the agreement reached at the Kiev meeting of CIS state leaders on inheriting the rights and obligations of the former USSR and on conducting an agreed upon policy in the sphere of regional security, disarmament, and arms control, including the implementation of programs to reduce armed forces and armaments on their territories.

The sides stated their recognition of each other's territorial integrity and the inviolability of the borders that exist between them and also pledged to avoid interfering

in internal affairs and to disallow the use of force in mutual relations. They spoke out in favor of close cooperation in the political, economic, social, and cultural spheres.

The participants in the conference pledged to respect international treaties in the sphere of human rights, including the rights of ethnic minorities.

They also took a common stance on the Afghan problem. In their opinion, events in Afghanistan are an internal affair of the Afghans. The statement contains an appeal to all the sides in the Afghan conflict to enter into a dialogue and to support the UN initiatives for a peaceful settlement.

Republics Favor CIS

OW2304103792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0957 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The summit meeting of Central Asian states and Kazakhstan in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan has confirmed readiness to keep the Commonwealth of Independent States. However, the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and the Vice-Premier of Tajikistan were alarmed by the disruption of economic ties between former Soviet republics.

At a news conference after the summit the Kazakh leader Nursultan Nazarbayev said that he always stood for "a common economic space and currency for the time of overcoming the crisis". Still in his opinion the republics are acting separately therefore the Commonwealth summit in Tashkent on May 15 will be "the culmination point in deciding the future of the CIS".

The main document of the Bishkek conference was a declaration signed by the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The President of Tajikistan Rakhman Nabiyeu expressed readiness to join the document in a telephone conversation with the Kyrgyz leader Askar Akayev.

The declaration speaks of loyalty to understandings reached at conferences in Alma-Ata, Tashkent and Ashkhabad on mutual consultations on key economic, political and cultural problems.

The five countries confirmed their interest in the strengthening of the Commonwealth.

The sides recognized the each others' territorial integrity and inviolability of borders. Realizing their responsibility for political stability and ethnic accord in the region that are a foundation for future economic development and the spiritual revival of peoples the participants spoke of the impermissibility of the use or threat of force and interference in each others' internal affairs.

Further on 24 Apr Chisinau Summit Postponement

LD2204204892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1956 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Minsk April 22 TASS—Tensions in the Dniester Region have forced a meeting of CIS heads of government, scheduled April 24 in Chisinau, to be postponed for May 15-16 in Tashkent. The meeting will be held parallelly with a CIS summit, Ivan Korotchenya, coordinator of a working group, preparing the summit told TASS.

The decision to postpone the meeting of heads of government was agreed by the working group with prime ministers from all CIS states, including Moldova.

"Our working group has prepared the agenda for both meetings, including draft agreements. Among them—social economic, 11 military and several other", Korotchenya said.

Commenting on the forthcoming forums in Tashkent, he said that the working group has suggested "to hold a joint meeting of heads of state and government before noon on May 15 and then meet separately. During the night, experts will work on amendments and changes. On the next day—signing (of the documents)", he said.

Preparations for the meeting have been very thorough, and experts have specially studied the most complex issues. "We do not envisage changes in the agendas of both meetings, although each delegation has the right to make amendments any time, even during the meeting", he said.

Agreement Reached on Communication System

LD2204223192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1359 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS—A meeting of the council of heads and plenipotentiary representatives of the CIS Regional Administrative Communication System, held here today, has reached agreement on mutual assistance to ensure the dependability of national and inter-state emergency communication lines.

Agreement was reached also on the common standardisation, certification and metrology of communication means.

In accordance with the council's charter, Latvia and Lithuania were granted observers status in it.

The meeting was told by Russian Minister for Communications Vladimir Bulgak that "no matter what happens, the communication services should remain outside politics, should be dependable and accessible, should remain operational in any situation, even during unthinkable natural calamities".

Military

Shaposhnikov on Fleet, Army Reductions

*LD2304113792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1113 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Golyayev]

[Text] Rome April 23—"Ukraine does not need a big fleet in the Black Sea. Twenty to twenty five per cent of the Black Sea Fleet will be more than sufficient for it", Commander-in-Chief of the CIS Armed Forces Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov said in an interview with the Italian "LA REPUBBLICA" newspaper.

Common sense should prevail during the talks on the future of the Black Sea Fleet. That is why the decrees of Yeltsin and Kravchuk were suspended, he said.

Shaposhnikov is confident that notwithstanding the creation of national armies in a number of former Soviet republics, the United CIS Armed Forces will remain at least for several years. However, nuclear weapons deployed on the territories of four nuclear Commonwealth states which, apparently, will remain there until 1995-97, will be subjected to a unified command.

Russia will not need such a big army in the future, as it has taken under its jurisdiction today. Cuts in the Armed Forces are imminent. "But we are speaking of people, not of dust, which can be easily wiped off the table. Army officers are afraid of being sent into retirement any day, but this will not happen", the marshal added.

Shaposhnikov decisively denied reported sale of nuclear weapons to Iran. "We have a detailed list of all nuclear weapons and until now we have lost none of them", he said.

Spokesman Denies Transfer of Caspian Fleet Arms

*LD2304111592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1024 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS—No weapons from the Caspian Flotilla have been handed over to Azerbaijan yet, according to a spokesman of the CIS Navy.

CIS and Azeri military experts, who met in Baku, had only worked out proposals for intergovernmental talks on the Caspian Flotilla between all the interested sides. The talks are expected to begin in the near future and no military hardware or weapons will be given to Azerbaijan until the negotiations are over, Valeriy Novikov told TASS on Thursday [22 April].

The spokesman was commenting on Armenian concern about the decision to hand over 25 per cent of the Caspian Navy to Azerbaijan when combat activities in Nagorno-Karabakh are going on. "The Navy Command

reiterates its devotion to the principles of non-interference into political and interstate problems, to those CIS agreements which regulate the activities of the CIS armed forces", Novikov said.

On Tuesday the Armenian Foreign Ministry expressed "bewilderness and confusion" over the decision and accused the leadership of Russia and the CIS Armed Forces Supreme Command of violating "the principles on which the Commonwealth of Independent States is based", as well as all international commitments regulating military presence in the Caspian Sea.

Accusations that the Russian authorities and the CIS Military Command "are hastily" dividing "military hardware which is the property of former Soviet republics" are groundless, Novikov said.

Baltics

Baltic Ministers Will Not Sign CIS Agreement

*LD2204182192 Riga Radio Riga International
in English 2030 GMT 21 Apr 92*

[Text] The Baltic (Interior) Ministers announced (today) that they would not join in the signing of a common agreement between the Interior Ministries of the Commonwealth States, which is due to take place on Thursday [22 April]. Instead they call for the signing of bilateral agreements with each Commonwealth country.

Media

'Electronic Newspaper' Available to Subscribers

*LD2304084892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0704 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS—Many regions of CIS member countries will soon be able to use a new electronic newspaper, called "VSE-VSEM" (EVERYTHING TO EVERYBODY). Their representatives have shown great interest in the new "publication" and signed an agreement on the distribution of this system.

The electronic newspaper was developed by researchers of the Ukrainian Institute for the Problems of Information Registration under the guidance of Academician Vyacheslav Petrov, in collaboration with several defense-related enterprises.

Digital information is broadcast at high speed through the channels of republican or local television to subscribers who can receive or record it with the help of a special device.

In the process of reception information is being processed and selected to meet the requirements of a "subscriber", who can also have individual or collective data bases.

The computer system already became operational in several regions of Ukraine, the Far East and Khabarovsk territory. It will soon appear in Tatarstan and central Russia.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 Apr
LD2304063592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0619 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow April 23 ITAR-TASS—The press continues to analyse the results of the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies, which ended on Tuesday [21 April]. Newspapers today comment on the congress's debates, speeches by senior government officials and individual deputies, frequently evaluating them equivocally.

"The opposition bloc Russian Unity has certainly scored a big moral victory at the congress," the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA writes in the article "Contrary to intrigues". This is exactly how representatives of the groups that form the bloc appraised the forum's results at their press conference.

"True, the president, who spoke at the congress's closing session, was not completely satisfied with its results. However, he shied away from describing the opposition as adversaries and called on society for civil accord. The president also distanced himself from those who fanned up confrontation at the congress and called for disbanding constitutional representative government bodies."

An article on the congress theme in the independent NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA paper is titled "The sixth congress is over. There are no victims, but there are those who suffered".

"To all appearances, the government has emerged from all of the congress's bickering as a stronger force. It has decisively thrown out the 'provisional' label from itself," the newspaper writes.

In contrast, the parliament "was taught an exceptionally substantive, although painful, lesson. In the last minutes of the Congress of Russian People's Deputies, the head of state made it clear to parliament that he has set to himself the goal of reforming legislative authority. At point now is the choice of methods that will allow him to enact it at the maximum pace and with maximum effectiveness," the newspaper writes.

The newspaper PRAVDA believes one of the main results of the Congress of Russian People's Deputies, which closed on Tuesday, was the formation of the opposition bloc "the Russian Unity" at it.

PRAVDA writes it is exactly thanks to the appearance of the organised opposition that "the people got an opportunity to see for themselves who is who" and the Russian president "has acquired the second wing" in its policy. It is this factor that forced Boris Yeltsin to "do everything possible" to modify the course of reforms.

It is emphasised that in his conclusive remarks, the president "has demonstrated realism and patience", repeatedly reminding about the need for civil peace and accord.

PRAVDA's sociological research service conducted a survey to learn how people evaluate the congress's results. According to the findings published, only 8.6 percent of the respondents evaluated the congress's results positively, 18.6 percent of those questioned said they regarded the results more positive than negative, 28.6 percent—more negative than positive and 22.8 percent evaluated the results as negative. Only 21.4 percent of those polled followed the congress's proceedings.

Professor Vadim Sobakin polemises in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on the theme of Russia's state structure—the presidential or parliamentary form of government. "Disputes focus not so much on whether to make presidential authority strong as on making it free and being above all other forms of government," Sobakin thinks. "It will be tragic if presidential authority becomes strong with regard to parliament and the court but impotent in the country. The genuine strength of presidential power is in the real ability to ensure the fulfillment of parliament's laws and one's own decrees. It can be as such even if it is 'weak' with relation to parliament and the court."

The number of jobless people has surged more than four-fold from July 1991 to February 1992, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes referring to the Russian Government's Centre for Economic Reforms. According to the centre's figures, 93,100 people have lost their jobs, of whom only 20,000 receive unemployment benefits. Formally, unemployment has not yet become a socially significant phenomenon in society, but the very fact of the existence of this phenomenon has introduced destabilising socio-psychological elements in the people's mood, the authors of the report think.

About 30 percent of Russian residents fear to lose jobs already today. In experts' opinion, the employment forecast for 1992 is "alarming"—the overall labour market can total 13 million people. Unemployment is expected to reach its height in the latter half of the year. The government plans a range of measures to cushion the burden of the problem. For instance, 24 billion roubles will be funnelled into the state employment fund this year as against 4.6 billion roubles last year.

In the opinion of Petr Rudev, general director of the state agency for the resettlement of citizens and the social development of the Russian countryside, who refers to statistics, the Russian countryside is short of a million of permanent workers. He made this statement in an interview with the newspaper KRESTYAN-SKAYA ROSSIYA.

Rudev said the agency headed by him helps implement the government's agrarian programme which envisages a mass resettlement of people willing to live in the countryside and toil land in the next few years.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, referring to estimates by experts from the economic news agency, writes that the Central Bank of Russia will be able "to push down the dollar rate to 138-140 roubles late in April and in the first half of May." Experts believe several basic factors will influence the rouble in the second quarter of this year: the loosening of the money squeeze put by the Central Bank of Russia and the government on the Russian economy, the growth of enterprises' rouble expenditures due to the rise in the price for oil and petroleum products and the expectations of inflation will inevitably reach their highest pitch in May-June."

Experts believe credits and funds of the International Monetary Fund could play a stabilising role but to all appearances "Western money" will come not earlier than late this summer and will not exert Central Bank of Russia and the [word indistinct] of the rouble rate in the second quarter. [sentence as received]

Representatives of the European union of conservative parties' youth movement, which brings together the CDU/CSU [Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union] youth union (Germany), the Jacques Chirac youth union (France), the youth organisation of the British Conservative Party and also virtually all conservative parties of European countries, are expected to arrive in Moscow today, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports. The guests will be received by the youth union of the Democratic Party of Russia.

The press gives broad coverage to events in the troubled spots of the states that formed on the territory of the former Soviet Union—the Dniester region, South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh. It reports about the situation in Central Asian republics and features commentaries on this theme.

Newspapers also carry reports about developments in Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, in the Middle East and the economic chronicle.

International Affairs

Khasbulatov on Effects of CIS Collapse

LD2204195192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The speaker of the Russian Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov believes that the Congress of People's Deputies has coped with its mission. He said that a draft of Russia's new constitution approved in principle was one of its achievements. About Russia's relations with other former Soviet republics, Khasbulatov said that the collapse of the CIS or the secession of some of its members could affect approaches to the solution of certain problems. For instance, Khasbulatov said that Moldova's departure from the Commonwealth would draw the questions of the Dniester region into a new perspective. He added that parliament would be examining the inviolability of borders in precisely the same way.

Kozyrev Discusses Congress With U.S. Ambassador

LD2304084292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0730 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr—The Information and Press Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said today that Andrey Kozyrev, Russian minister of foreign affairs, had received U.S. Ambassador in Moscow Robert Strauss at the latter's request. The minister shared his impressions of the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies of Russia and spoke about the Russian Government's priorities in the upcoming period.

In the words of Robert Strauss, despite the sometimes dramatic nature of the Congress, Washington is viewing the outcome as a confirmation of the public's firm support for President Boris Yeltsin's line on radicalizing reform and as evidence of there being no alternative to this policy. The U.S. ambassador confirmed the American leadership's position of real solidarity with the reforms being implemented in Russia and its readiness to step up practical cooperation in aspects of the reform.

Kozyrev Phones Azerbaijan, Armenia Leaders

PM2204140692 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Apr 92 First Edition p 1

[Report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, ITAR-TASS "News" column: "They Have Spoken. What Next?"]

[Text] Yesterday Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozhevnikov had telephone conversations with Yakub Mamedov, chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, and Levon Ter-Petrosyan, president of Armenia. The Russian Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department has reported that the sides exchanged opinions on ways to organize the negotiating process in the context of the Russian minister's initiative of arranging a

meeting between Karabakh representatives and the Azerbaijani leadership to achieve a cease-fire in the conflict zone.

Yeltsin Meets With Spanish Foreign Minister

LD2204164092 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1433 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Today, Russian President Boris Yeltsin received the Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, who is in Moscow on an official visit.

At the end of the meeting the minister told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that he had handed to the Russian president a letter from King Juan Carlos containing an invitation to visit Spain. We hope that during this visit, which could take place before autumn, Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez noted, the treaty on friendship and cooperation between our countries will be signed.

Discuss Reform, Cooperation

LD2204165792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1527 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow, 22 April (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today received Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, who is here on an official visit at the invitation of the Russian Government.

The press service of the president of the Russian Federation reported that key questions of Russian-Spanish relations and their development prospects were touched upon during the conversation. The president briefed him on the Congress of People's Deputies of Russia, which ended the previous evening, and confirmed that the course for economic reform was unaltered. Boris Yeltsin also expressed the conviction that multilateral cooperation between Russia and Spain will further the strengthening of democratic processes in the Russian Federation and in Europe as a whole.

Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez stressed the priority significance which Spain attaches to the development of broad-scale cooperation with the Russian Federation and expressed support for the democratic and economic transformations in Russia.

Fernandez-Ordonez gave the president of Russia a personal message from King Juan Carlos I of Spain inviting him to pay an official visit to Spain this year.

Gaydar Meets With Spanish Minister

LD2204164992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Stasovskiy and Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 22 April (ITAR-TASS)—Today Yegor Gaydar, first deputy prime minister of the government of Russia, met Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, Spanish foreign minister, who is in Moscow on an official visit.

During the conversation, Yegor Gaydar spoke about the course of economic reforms which are being carried out in Russia and about the results of the Russian Congress of People's Deputies which ended in Moscow.

The traditionally friendly character of relations between the two countries and both sides' desire to continue bilateral mutually beneficial cooperation in all spheres was stressed at the talks.

Fernandez-Ordonez Views Visit

*LD2204222792 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network
in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin will visit Spain, probably before the end of the summer and coinciding with the Olympic Games in Barcelona. This was announced in Moscow today by Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, who had a meeting with Yeltsin and conveyed to him an invitation from King Juan Carlos. A report on this from our correspondent in Moscow, Luis Garmat:

[Garmat] This is the year of Spain and you have to be there—this phrase was uttered by Kozyrev, Russian minister of foreign affairs, when commenting on the invitation conveyed to Yeltsin by Fernandez-Ordonez and contained in a letter from the king asking the Russian leader to pay an official visit to our country.

The Spanish foreign minister was received by Yeltsin in his office in the Kremlin at a time when all observers coincide in their view that the Russian president has emerged strengthened from the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies, which came to an end last night. Fernandez-Ordonez agreed with this interpretation. First thing this morning, he had a meeting with the chairman of the parliament, Khasbulatov, for whom the congress marked out the orientations in economic reform, while avoiding a continuation of the fall in the standard of living of the Russian people.

With these two points in mind our minister of foreign affairs received the press at the residence of Ambassador Bregolat, to summarize the concerns expressed to the Russian leaders and our country's desire to encourage relations which will take up a new torch following the disintegration of the USSR:

[Begin Fernandez-Ordonez recording] Well, I believe, first, that things are moving at a very lively pace, which is probably the pace which events require. Second, things are moving with great determination and great courage in a series of very difficult economic and political reforms. And, third, the year that we are now living is one which has begun with better omens, given that we all feared this winter, and one which, we thought, would clearly be a decisive year. [end recording]

Holds News Conference

*LD2304020192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1642 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Staroselskiy and Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Apr—Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez described his first visit to Russia after the break up of the USSR as "rather fruitful." "Our relations with Russia have existed for centuries. We are now trying to return to our common history and restore very close ties," the minister stated.

During his stay in Moscow he was received by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. He also met Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Summing up the negotiations at a news conference today, Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez stated that a protocol on political consultations between the two countries was signed in Moscow, and a Russian-Spanish treaty on friendship and cooperation was initialed. This is a timely document, the minister said, it mirrors today's Russia. It is expected that the treaty will be signed during a visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Spain that is planned for summer.

The head of Spain's foreign policy department also reported that both sides have prepared bank agreements in which lines of credit that were previously earmarked for the Soviet Union will be put completely at Russia's disposal. Spain, the minister continued, is advocating Russia's participation in the IMF. He noted: "In connection with this, we have discussed with the Russian side the issue of establishing a fund for the stabilization of the ruble and the measures needed to guarantee the success of economic reform."

Replying to a question about his visit to Ukraine, which is to start tomorrow, the Spanish minister noted that economic, military, and other problems will be discussed in Kiev. He recalled that a decision has already been adopted about opening a Spanish Embassy in Kiev. In the near future Spanish embassies will also be opened in Byelarus, Kazakhstan, and—possibly somewhat later—Georgia. "We are going to gradually establish our diplomatic presence in the republics of the former Soviet Union in accordance with our interests and the interests of balance in Europe," Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez stated.

Departs Moscow for Kiev

*LD2304081292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0652 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Staroselskiy and Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow, April 23 TASS—Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez left Moscow for Kiev on Thursday [23 April].

Ordonez plans to discuss economic and military problems with Ukrainian leaders, as well as the opening of a diplomatic mission in Kiev.

In Moscow, Ordonez met Russian President Boris Yeltsin, parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

A Russian-Spanish protocol on interaction in international cooperation and security problems was signed. A treaty on friendship and cooperation was initialled to be signed during the planned visit of the Russian president to Spain this summer.

Another Soviet POW Freed in Afghanistan

OW2204142192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1244 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry informed IF [INTERFAX] that one more Soviet POW who had been kept in a Mujahidin prison since 1987 was freed in Mazar-i-Sharif, in the north of Afghanistan. His name is Bekmuratov and he comes from Uzbekistan. Through the Russian Consulate General he was passed to his relatives and the Uzbek authorities.

During the ceremony, Russia's Consul General thanked all the Afghans who helped set Bekmuratov free. He also expressed hope that national reconciliation in Afghanistan would help return all of the Soviet POW's still in Afghanistan.

The Russian Foreign Ministry told IF that the situation around the Russian Embassy in Kabul was relatively calm.

'Moral Duty' To Assist Afghanistan Seen

MK2204122092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 22 Apr 92 p 4

[Yuriy Leonov report under "Afghanistan" rubric: "Between Disaster and Rebirth. Afghan War Has Entered a New Phase"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] **Have We Washed Our Hands of This?**

The Russian Embassy in Kabul, which was inherited from the USSR along with a large part of the personnel, is impressive in its size—it can be seen from the window of your airplane as you fly in to Kabul. At one time this place was bursting with frenzied life, and the houses were overcrowded. Now the occasional embassy employee or the specialists who moved to the embassy residential area after the situation deteriorated take an evening

stroll among the multistory blocks in whose windows you can sometimes see a flickering flame. This picture is a good illustration of the line pursued by Russia with respect to Afghanistan. We created a regime—whose last leader was Najibollah—and then left it to the mercy of fate. We sacrificed the lives of thousands of citizens so that the settlements along the few Afghan roads would greet the traveler with ruins, piles of twisted metal, and poverty-stricken hopelessness. We constructed a friendly Afghanistan according to our model and likeness in order now to distance ourselves as much as possible from the horrifying result of this construction.

If Russian-Afghan ties do exist, then they exist in a frozen form, and there are more potential opportunities than real plans here. As recent history has shown, you can stop liking the fruit of your geopolitical creativity within an hour, but that does not mean that it ceases to exist. For Russia, Afghanistan will soon be of far less political and economic significance than it is for the Central Asian republics of the CIS. However, it is Russia that has assumed a moral duty to this country. We must fulfill that duty not just by participating in the UN settlement plan and other international projects on Afghanistan, but also by setting up mutually advantageous economic ties with this country, and deideologizing Russian-Afghan relations. At one time, Russia and Afghanistan were friends. It would be naive to expect the quick restoration of the same relations after what has happened in the past 13 years. However, this does not mean that Russia should keep "a low profile" in this area and renounce its own national interests which mutually advantageous and equitable cooperation with Afghanistan can meet.

Such cooperation is only possible on condition that the rights of the Afghans to determine the future of their country for themselves are recognized. The international community, the United States, Russia, or any other side not party to the conflict can propose its own settlement plan. But its adoption and implementation will depend in the final analysis on the Afghan people. Whoever wins the struggle for power tomorrow at the walls of Kabul, they will not ensure legitimacy for themselves by means of foreign support.

Impact of Afghan Events on Region Viewed

PM2204133092 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 18 Apr 92 p 5

[A. Mursaliyev article under "Forecast" rubric and general heading: "April. Revolution in Kabul Again"]

[Text] Once upon a time there was a small semimedieval kingdom comfortably tucked away half asleep right beside a great power. The neighbor, having opened windows to the west and east, was dreaming of opening one more—to the south. They began gradually to awaken the country. Time was short, and so the history of socialist building, which extended for more than 70 years

in the case of the great neighbor, had to be hastily fitted into just over 15 years in the southern kingdom.

There was no time to slowly torment and isolate Lenin-Taraki in an Afghan "Gorki" [Lenin's home in last year of his life, where he died], and Stalin-Amin simply shot him. Khrushchev-Babrak in turn was also unable to await the death of Amin so as to hold his own "20th congress" and debunk the Amin cult of personality. The Afghan Stalin was shot by Soviet paratroopers when they stormed the palace. Babrak, like Khrushchev, was removed bloodlessly. But, taking into account that same lack of time, Najibollah had to combine the roles of Brezhnev and Gorbachev: first the leader of stagnation, then the president-reformer. This is now the third day that he has been the possessor of the prefix "ex."

But the sleepy kingdom has completely vanished. The northern neighbor awakened the sleeping country...

The fall of Najibollah's regime is not only the finale of a Soviet experiment lasting many years to refashion Afghanistan into a window onto the Indian Ocean. It is at the same time the start of a new struggle for the structural, geopolitical repartition of Central Asia. Recent reports from Kabul make it possible to assume that Afghanistan is standing on the brink of a new confrontation—between the Tajik-Uzbek northwest and the Pushtun southeast. It is even possible to guess which of the neighbors will sympathize with them. Pakistan, which borders directly on Pushtunistan and, moreover, incorporates the Northwest Province populated by Pushtuns—an object of complications with Kabul since the times of the British colonization—will undoubtedly support the north, while India, which neighbors on it and is far from friendly toward it, will hardly avoid the temptation to help create a hotbed of tension on the western borders of its "Muslim brother." The politicians in Central Asia—particularly in Dushanbe and Tashkent—also have something to think about. In Dushanbe, where, incidentally, a rally has been under way for 23 successive days in Shakhidon (Martyrs) Square, the opposition—represented principally by people from the south and motivated mainly by the Islamic Revival Party—will undoubtedly receive a new boost and at least moral support from its still more southerly confreres. The temporal authorities are thinking hard about the fate of Najibollah, who is very close to them in terms of political mentality.

Uzbekistan could encounter a serious water shortage as early as next spring in addition to problems connected with an increase in the impact of the "Afghan factor" on it. With the establishment of lasting peace, at least in the north of Afghanistan, the local peasants will start to appropriate the "half" of the Amudarya—one of the two great rivers of life in Central Asia—that is due to them...

President Najibollah's Downfall Analyzed

PM2204110592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Yevgeniy Bay report: "'The Last Victim of Perestroika'"]

[Excerpts] President Najibollah of Afghanistan was a real enigma—a man capable of upsetting even the most seemingly indisputable predictions.

In February 1989, when Soviet troops left Kabul, most of his opponents and a good number of his supporters predicted that the Marxist regime which had remained in power solely thanks to the Soviet occupation would fall in the space of a few weeks. [passage omitted]

The nightmare for Najibollah, whom REUTER called the "last victim of perestroika," started as soon as the new year, 1992, began.

The ending from 1 January of weapons and food shipments from the former Soviet republics triggered an acute crisis in Kabul. At the same time, a second autonomous Afghan Government was to all intents and purposes set up in the north of the country by commanders who had split from the government.

Essentially, ever since January the regime had been rapidly losing control over the country's border with what used to be Soviet Central Asia. The opposition's firm grip on 10 provinces comprising approximately one-third of Afghan territory isolated President Najibollah still further.

The leaders of the new autonomous areas received direct or indirect support from Benon Sevan, the UN secretary general's representative who has been conducting talks on a peaceful settlement to the Afghan problem and the formation of a transitional government.

When Najibollah stated in late March that he agreed to cede power to an interim council, this essentially marked the end of his rule. The Afghan president realized that this time his flexibility and astuteness would not be enough to save the regime. The cards were against him, both inside and outside Afghanistan.

Compared with authoritarian leaders such as Castro or Kim Il-sung, Najibollah undoubtedly looks like a moderate politician not inclined to extremism. He has repeatedly warned of the danger posed by the fundamentalist horde currently bearing down on Kabul. Najibollah referred to them in a recent interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES: "If fundamentalism prevails in Afghanistan, war will continue for many a long year, and the country will be turned into a center of worldwide drug smuggling and terrorism."

Implications of Sanctions Against Libya Eyed

MK2304084992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 23 Apr 92 p 1

[Lena Bereznitskaya report under "Sic!" rubric: "Price of Being Civilized May Total Billions of Dollars"]

[Text] Russia has told Libya to take measures to reduce the number of diplomatic workers in Moscow by 6 or 7 people, thus confirming its adherence to the UN line. But unlike other countries that voted in the UN Security Council in support of sanctions, this has not been followed up with the government resolution necessary to activate the mechanism for the technical implementation of sanctions: A mere declaration of intent is not enough. It is possible that the end of the congress and the formation on the same day of an interagency commission for the evacuation of CIS citizens from Libya will somehow speed up the emergence of a document of this kind.

As far as the evacuation from Libya of military and military-technical specialists of the former Union is concerned, even if the unpredictable al-Qadhafi fulfills his promise and does not hinder this process, there will be more than enough difficulties involved in evacuating the specialists and their families. First of all, it is not just Russian representatives but also Ukrainian, Uzbek, and many other former republics' representatives who are working in Libya, and none of these republics has declared its support for the UN Security Council sanctions. According to information which your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent obtained from sources close to the Russian Foreign Ministry, over 200 people have already announced their desire to stay on in Libya to work and have signed private contracts that Libyan representatives are willingly offering them. We can only assume that there will be many more of these contracts signed. The same sources maintain that at the moment all those who signed the contracts are not Russian citizens but subjects of other independent states. There is another problem in connection with the evacuation of our people. The Libyan side may demand major financial compensation for breaches of contracts. Furthermore, it is not clear who will pay for the evacuation and how much, given that military specialists from various CIS states are in Libya.

Certain circles in the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations believe that the anti-Libyan sanctions will in fact work against Russia, given the financial aspect of the question. Their arguments are as follows: The military and military-technical specialists whose evacuation is the subject of the UN Security Council decision are in fact exclusively our people; many countries trade with Libya by land and sea, whereas its communications with Russia are mainly by air, which is prohibited. The former Soviet military and military-technical specialists may easily now be repaced by Chinese counterparts, who have an excellent mastery of Soviet technology. So the Libyan Army, which is 90 percent equipped with Soviet materiel, can do perfectly well without our specialists.

In 1990 a Soviet-Libyan agreement was concluded under which Libya's debt to the USSR stood at \$3.5 billion. It was agreed that Libya would pay \$500 million annually; it paid for 1990, and it almost paid for 1991 (473 million). Many people believe that in connection with Russia's support for sanctions, Libya will cease paying off its Soviet debt. There is nothing to be afraid of here—it has already stopped paying since December of last year, without any sanctions, by exploiting the lack of agreement among the CIS states on debt issues and playing the game of "We will pay, but just tell us whom to pay." To be fair, it must be said that Libya is the only one of our former "friends" which paid its debts not with citrus fruits or dates but with real currency or petroleum. For the umpteenth time Russia is losing its Klondike for the sake of the right to be considered a civilized country. But then, we have exploited them enough: Before the oil crisis, when Libya had a lot of money, the USSR sold it its weapons at prices that were exaggerated by a factor of 5-6.

Envoy to PRC on Remaining Border Issues

PM2204135092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
22 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Interview with Igor Rogachev, Russian ambassador to the PRC, by Gennadiy Charodeyev; date and place not given: "Damanskiy Problem No Longer Exists. But Disputed Areas of Russo-Chinese Border Remain"]

[Text] Appointed new Russian ambassador to the PRC by presidential decree, Igor Rogachev has presented his credentials to PRC President Yang Shangkun in Beijing.

I. Rogachev comes from a long line of sinologists and is a professional diplomat who has spent many years dealing with the problems of the Asia-Pacific region. In recent years he had been a USSR deputy foreign minister. On the eve of his departure to take up his new post the new Russian ambassador gave an interview to IZVESTIYA's correspondent.

[Rogachev] The past few years have been the most productive for talks on border problems. I can say this with complete authority, because I have headed our delegation since 1987. Around 98 percent of the entire border between China and Russia (the total length of the border between Russia and the PRC is 4,300 km) has now been settled.

[Charodeyev] In which areas of the Russo-Chinese border has agreement not yet been reached?

[Rogachev] There are a few areas in the eastern sector which have not been agreed upon. There are two islands near Khabarovsk—Tarabarov and Bolshoy Ussuriyskiy—as well as Bolshoy Island on the Argun River. Our positions have not yet converged in this area. But both sides have displayed sangfroid and wisdom in deciding not to dwell on a few disputed areas. Russo-Chinese border talks are now continuing successfully.

[Charodeyev] What has become of the notorious Damanskiy Island? Whom does it belong to?

[Rogachev] The problem of Damanskiy Island has been resolved. The eastern section of the Russo-Chinese border mainly runs across rivers and lakes. There are only small stretches of land. In 1987 we agreed with the Chinese that the border would be drawn along the channel of navigable rivers and down the middle of unnavigable rivers. This, incidentally, is a principle of international law and is enshrined in our domestic legislation. When we drew the border in accordance with this principle, Damanskiy and a number of other islands went to the Chinese. These stretches of land, it turns out, are actually on the Chinese side of the channel.

[Charodeyev] In that case, why did we have any border guards stationed there?

[Rogachev] In the thirties the situation in this border region deteriorated sharply. Armed provocations against Soviet territory became more extensive. There were no appropriate border controls in the Damanskiy area. Therefore, Moscow gave the order for troops to occupy the island, dig in there, and, if necessary, defend the Soviet bank. Our border guards have been there ever since.

We began talks with the Chinese in 1964. The politicians then recognized that the island belonged to the Chinese side, and our troops were prepared to retreat to the other side of the channel but we were not allowed to sign the agreement—there was an order from Moscow.

It was only in 1986 that M. Gorbachev stated in his Vladivostok speech that the Soviet side was prepared to accept the principle of using the channel of navigable rivers as a principle for defining the position of the border. The Chinese immediately indicated to Moscow that they were prepared to resume talks. Thus, the Damanskiy Island problem was solved.

[Charodeyev] It has been reported that another round of Russo-Chinese talks is currently under way in Beijing on armed forces cuts along the border and on confidence-building measures in the military sphere. Have there been any concrete results in this area?

[Rogachev] Diplomats and military men have been taking part in the meeting on our side. I very much hope that the talks will end with the signing of a major agreement on bilateral armed forces cuts and that this will set a good example for our colleagues in other Asian countries. After all, in the sixties and seventies the Soviet Union spent no less than 60 billion rubles on strengthening its border with China. We sent sophisticated equipment and regular units there, and deployed nuclear, tactical, and strategic weapons.

[Charodeyev] The Ukrainian leadership recently advocated that property at the foreign missions of the former USSR be divided up. As ambassador, what way do you see of solving this problem?

[Rogachev] Dividing up the property of the former Union in Beijing strikes me as unrealistic. Before the revolution everything belonged to a Russian spiritual mission. The property was then inherited by the Soviet Union from czarist Russia. As ambassador, I believe that we need to take a cautious approach to this delicate issue. We will act precisely in accordance with the agreements reached by our presidents but for some reason they have been in no hurry to do this as yet.

Parliamentary Delegation Visits Mongolia

*LD2104163692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1513 GMT 21 Apr 92*

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, April 21 TASS—A delegation of Russian parliamentarians was received by Deputy Chairman of the Mongolian People's Great Hural Kinaytyn Zardykhon this afternoon.

The sides exchanged opinions on cooperation between the Mongolian and Russian parliaments and called for its activation. An agreement has been reached on establishment of regular contacts in law-making between the supreme power bodies of Mongolia and the Russian Federation.

The parliamentarians called for accelerated signing of a new treaty on comprehensive cooperation between the two states and greater influence on the parliaments on executive bodies.

The most important is that both the Mongolian and Russian sides agree there should be no vacuum in the mutual many years and traditionally good-neighbourly relations, Russian delegation head Ramazan Abdulatipov told ITAR-TASS.

The Russian delegation also met Chairman of the Mongolian Parliamentary Group Sanzhasurengijn Zorig to discuss further development of interaction. The sides noted the formation of inter-parliamentary factions "Buryatiya-Mongolia" and "Kalmykiya-Mongolia" is promising since the federative treaty has granted broad powers to former autonomous republics to independently act on the international scene.

Procedural Matters Discussed With Estonians

*PM2204200192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
20 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2*

[Leonid Levitskiy report: "Wish the Diplomats Patience"]

[Text] Tallinn—The first meeting between Russian and Estonian delegations, as expected, was mainly a question of familiarization.

Over the two days in Parnu the sides defined the procedure and direction for the talks. These will focus on humanitarian, legal, military, border, and economic matters. Working groups were set up for each of these areas. As delegation heads V. Svirin and U. Veering

stressed at the press conference, the sides' viewpoints differ greatly and will have to be patiently brought closer together.

Special envoy V. Svirin met with representatives of Parnu's Russian community, who picketed the hotel where the delegations were staying. He gave an assurance that he would try to convince the Foreign Ministry leadership to open a Russian Embassy in Estonia as quickly as possible.

The next round of talks will be held in Moscow 13-14 May.

Visa-Free Travel for Japan, Kurils Implemented

PM2304093692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
20 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1

[RIA report: "No Visas for Japan"]

[Text] The Russo-Japanese agreement on visa-free travel to Japan for the residents of Sakhalin and the Southern Kurils comes into force 22 April.

Japanese citizens will also be able to visit the Southern Kurils without visas as of 11 May.

South African Ambassador Visits Gold Center

PM2204085692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
16 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Boris Pilyatskin report: "South Africa and Russia Open Up New Area of Cooperation. Siberia's Mountains of Gold"]

[Text] Novosibirsk—With their vast raw material and precious metal resources the RSA [Republic of South Africa] and Russia could organize an exchange of information on gold, for instance, ensuring that this cooperation is in both countries' national interests as far as possible. Gerrit Olivye, RSA ambassador, made this statement in Novosibirsk, which he was visiting at the invitation of the oblast administration, during his visit to a unique installation—the former Post Office No. 37.

Possibly the Soviet Union's most important strategic installation was housed in the former agricultural technical college building 1941 through 1991—the gold cleaning plant. All the gold ingots required by industry and science, along with those in the State Repository of Precious Metals reserve, came from workshops in Novosibirsk. Last year a modern refining unit was set up in central Russia and a large proportion of the equipment was taken there. Some things have nonetheless been left, but the main thing is the "gold cadres"—workers from a dynasty of highly skilled professionals who did not want to part with their baby.

The precious metal plant, which is part of the "Atoll" joint-stock company, is now completing the preparatory period with a view to manufacturing jewelry goods as well as cleaning gold. In the ambassador's opinion, South

African and Russian specialists could benefit from learning from one another. As for large-scale ties, in view of Siberia's vast economic and intellectual potential, Mr. Olivye thinks that a data bank should be set up. This will help businessmen on both sides get to know one another better and facilitate the quest for partners.

A seminar at the "South Africa" business school, which operates at the Novosibirsk branch of the "Russia-South Africa" society—"Afrosib"—and was set up thanks to the enthusiasm shown by Candidate of Technical Sciences Robert Povileyko, showed that Siberians are prepared to offer their South African colleagues cooperation in highly diverse spheres—ranging from computer diagnostics to organizing a joint bicycle race.

Representatives from 40 enterprises and firms gathered to talk to the RSA ambassador, not only from Novosibirsk, but also from many other cities in Siberia and the Urals—Norilsk, Omsk, Chelyabinsk, Tyumen. The proposals require careful study and, Mr. Olivye promised, will not remain unanswered. He deemed it necessary to explain that business in the RSA is in private hands. Therefore the state must not be expected to provide monetary aid, patronage, and so on. "Power dies whenever it interferes in business," the ambassador remarked. Tax policy and the creation of a favorable climate for business activity are another matter.

The guest did not skirt the problem of immigration especially since there have been notes from physicists and mathematicians at Akademgorodok inquiring about the possibility of working in the RSA. South Africa is at present experiencing an economic slump and suffering from unemployment. The government is concerned to increase employment, above all among the African population. This does not mean that the gates are tightly shut to people wanting to immigrate, but there are no preferential conditions for Russia or other CIS countries in this respect. People whose qualifications enable them to contribute to the development of society and, in particular, create additional jobs are welcome.

The hosts tried to do everything they could to ensure that the ambassador's visit to the capital of Siberia went successfully. They joked that they had even "organized" real Siberian cold weather in April. The thermometer in Novosibirsk read minus 21 degrees. Despite the frost, Gerrit Olivye told me that he was taking with him to Moscow very warm impressions of Siberians and their hospitality as well as a series of applications for cooperation.

Customs Tariffs Levied on Exports To Baltics

OW2004214592 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1805 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian customs is still not allowing exports to Baltic nations to pass without paying customs tariffs despite permission from the Russian government. A

resolution of March 20, 1992 lifted customs tariffs on goods exported to the Baltics through June 30, 1992.

The Estonian Trade representative to Russia Valeriy Soroka told "Baltfax" that Russian customs explains the situation by "the lack of any official orders". Representative of Russian customs Dmitriy Kostin assured the Estonian Trade Representative that orders had been sent and will be received by customs points "in two to three days".

Bidding for Rights to Okhotsky Oil Opens

OW2204223192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1602 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The regional Soviet of Magadan (in northeastern Siberia) addressed the Russian government will a proposition to hold an international competition this year for research and mining rights to the oil and gas field of the Okhotsky Sea. The "NEPO" agency estimates the oil reserves of the Okhotsky Sea at 150 million tons. 60 thousand square kilometers will be put up for bid.

Experts discovered oil in the Okhotsky Sea six years ago.

The Magadan regional Soviet feels that favorable conditions under which a portion of the power to distribute the natural resources of the region is transferred to the local organs will be created only if a Russian law on natural resources is passed.

Agreement Signed Between Russian, U.S. Banks

PM2204111892 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 5

[ITAR-TASS report: "Interbank Agreement Between Russia and United States"]

[Text] An agreement has been signed in Washington between the Foreign Trade Bank of Russia (Vneshtorgbank) and the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

It envisages support from this government bank for the implementation of exports of U.S. goods and services to Russia. The Export-Import Bank's support program includes short-term and medium-term export credit insurance, and the provision of medium-term and long-term guarantees and direct long-term loans. This is the first-ever agreement in Russo-U.S. relations to provide backup for U.S. exports to Russia.

U.S. Delegation Visits Vladivostok

PM2204093992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 17 Apr 92 p 1

[Report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA-ITAR-TASS column under the "News" rubric: "Cooperation Possible"]

[Text] Representatives of a U.S. delegation headed by Senators Frank Murkowski and Steven Symms arrived

in Vladivostok today. The delegation comprises the chairman of the Chamber of Trade and Industry, the director of the International Trade Center, and leaders of Alaska's university and leading firms. The program for the three-day visit includes talks with representatives of the kray and city administration on matters of cooperation in public health, education, finances, and humanitarian aid, as well as the opening of a U.S. consulate in Vladivostok scheduled for the near future.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin, Gaydar Meet With Industrial Faction

LD2204142192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1347 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Apr—A government session will take place tomorrow at which the results of the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies, which has ended, will be discussed. This was reported by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at a meeting which took place in the Kremlin today with members of the "Industrial Union" parliamentary faction. First Vice Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar took part in the meeting.

Issues of the reorganization of the structures for the administration of industry will also be considered at the session. Boris Yeltsin said that neither he nor the government envisaged a precipitous privatization of industry. It is proposed that industrial facilities should be divided into three sections in accordance with the extent of their privatization. Three or four people will be brought into the government at the rank of minister to manage these sections.

The president pointed out that some corrections will be made to the reforms, but there will be no strategic alterations. It is planned in some measure to liberalize the taxation system, which is at present being very strictly applied. The president announced that yesterday he signed a law on conversion, which defines the legal and social basis of conversion. Aleksey Novikov, acting presidential press secretary, briefed the journalists on the results of the meeting and added that during the meeting members of the "Industrial Union" faction voiced a number of criticisms about the work of those in the government who currently deal with industry and associated spheres. The president said that changes would be made in the government. The "Industrial Union" faction expressed support for the economic reforms but voiced disagreement with certain methods and means of implementing them. Today agreement was reached to hold another meeting in about 10 days, at which a document will be signed on the intentions of the president and representatives of industrial circles to work out joint policy in this sphere.

Government Session Postponed

OW2304102792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0957 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the press service of the Russian government, the cabinet session scheduled for today has been postponed till Friday [24 April] because of the necessity of completing documents due to be discussed. There are four items on the preliminary agenda. First, Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar is expected to make a report on the outcome of the recent Congress of People's Deputies and resulting steps of the government. The Finance Minister Vasily Barchuk is to speak on the revenue and expenditures of the first three months of the year and the budget for the second quarter. The third item is the government regulation of fuel and energy prices. The Economy Minister Andrey Nechayev will speak on it. Besides, the government should also discuss the organization and structure of a center for the land and farming reform.

Kozyrev Opens Review of Congress Results

LD2304084792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1656 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow, April 22 (ITAR-TASS)—“There is a grain of truth in all critical remarks addressed to the Foreign Ministry, including completely biased ones,” Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said as he opened today's meeting of the ministry's senior staff, devoted to the results of the 6th Congress of Russian People's Deputies.

Much of what was said at the congress, the minister said, provokes thought and self-analysis and reveals that there are reserves in diplomatic work. During the discussion special attention was paid to the activities of Russian diplomacy in the framework of the CIS, and in this light to problems such as human rights, the rights of ethnic minorities and the judicial regulation of new interactions among sovereign states. The diplomats are now faced with the task of fundamentally revitalizing work in this direction, a top priority for the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, which is maintaining a lively dialogue with the Russian and international public on these topical issues.

Kozyrev, Moscow Imam Discuss Gulf States

LD2204221492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1353 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met Ravil Gainutdinov, the Imam of the Moscow Mosque, at the Foreign Ministry here today.

The meeting was timed for the Russian minister's visit to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. The sides discussed problems linked with the expansion of relations between the Russian Federation and this group of countries, including on religious lines.

Adviser of the Russian foreign minister Galina Sidorova told ITAR-TASS that Russian Muslims were interested in expanding and maintaining relations with their co-believers all over the world. However, they are opposed to any outside influence and will endeavour to safeguard their own originality.

Media Ministers Discuss Congress Outcome

OW2204143292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1014 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Minister for Information and the Press, Mikhail Poltoranin, described the soviets as an anachronism. The only thing they did was to cause chaos and economic disintegration. Summing up the results of the congress of people's deputies at a press conference, he gave to understand that the Russian government would take serious lessons from the congress. It is planning to systemize the reforms and draw a schedule of their implementation. The government has realized, said Mikhail Poltoranin, that “economic separatism” of Russia's different regions derives from the government's mistakes, not from the ambitions of the local authorities alone, and will adjust its financial policies.

He said that the congress represented an unsuccessful attempt to accomplish a “civilized coup”, to “defeat” the government and “to bring the Russian president's authority to that of the English Queen”.

The land issue was torpedoed by the former party bureaucrats and the current land-lords—the leaders of state and collective farms, who were backed by the ex-democrats, who have not received any posts and drifted rightwards. He said that some of the leaders of state and collective farms indulged in power abuse and sold land, using the money thus earned for reviving the Communist Party structures and chauvinist organizations.

Chief of the Russian TV and Radio Company Oleg Poptsov viewed the congress from a slightly different angle. In his opinion, the democratic forces have only succeeded in ending the congress in a draw solely because those who ran the congress made a mistake.

Speaking about the alignment of forces at the congress, Oleg Poptsov said that the opponents of the reform were too weak to win but strong enough to slow down the reform. This cannot be neglected, he said, the more so since the democrats have lost one third of the deputies who have taken the side of the hard-liners.

National Interests, Caucasus Pullout Eyed

MK2304102092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 92 p 1

[Natalya Pachegina report under "Army" rubric: "We Will Pull Out of North Caucasus. But Interests of Russia Dictate the Reverse"]

[Text] From the mouths of those who frequent the building on the Frunzenskaya Embankment (Main Staff of CIS Joint Armed Forces Ground Forces) this sounds convincing enough if you take into consideration the fact that the degree to which the CIS Joint Armed Forces Ground Forces Main Staff committee for work with personnel is informed is based on data from the most diverse departments—from the Hydrometeorology Center to those services which it is recommended not even to mention.

To Vitaliy Prokofyev, head of the press liaison department, the North Caucasus region—incorporating 605,000 square kilometers, two krais, three oblasts, five republics, two autonomous oblasts, and a 20-million-strong population embracing 70 nationalities—appears extremely complex. And primarily because it abuts directly on the Near East theater of hostilities.

In Prokofyev's opinion, the fact that politicians' efforts are aimed at securing foreign political prestige is a serious mistake on the part of the current leadership of Russia. Meanwhile, the processes occurring within the country promise far greater complications, including on a world scale. In this sense the North Caucasus region can be considered a "test" site.

It is another matter that Russia needs to determine for itself how important its North Caucasus presence is. For Prokofyev's department it is completely obvious that, in connection with the weakening of Russia's influence in the North Caucasus region, and also the complication of its relations with Ukraine and Azerbaijan, an axis is taking shape—Kiev-Groznyy-Baku—which is unfavorable for it. The external part of this axis passes through Saudi Arabia-Syria-Jordan. And Prokofyev believes that in the North Caucasus this may also entail a realignment of borders.

In his opinion, the question of the religious influence of the Muslim world on the peoples of the North Caucasus demands serious attention. In a region where 80 percent of the population is under the influence of Islam, where some 2,200 religious communities are functioning, and (according to Prokofyev's information) a national guard for religious observance [po religioznomu priznaku] has already been established in Makhachkala—all these factors dictate the need for a very attentive attitude toward the North Caucasus region.

At the same time, according to information from the department on the Frunzenskaya Embankment, Kiev is taking a most active part in the creation of a new "Union": Eight carloads of munitions intended for

combat operations in Karabakh have been dispatched from Kiev to Baku. The department is also aware that Turkey's 3d Field Army has been two-thirds mobilized and is standing at the border with Armenia.

The withdrawal from the region of units of the former Soviet Army has been dictated more by the current situation, and it is such that the number of attacks on servicemen is increasing, instances of the seizure of officers and men are frequent, and officers' families are being subjected to attacks and blackmail. Thus, there have been 56 attacks on soldiers in Grozny alone. The fate of Captain Bashenko, who was taken hostage 7 February this year, is still not known. Meanwhile, only 45 percent of officers' families have quit the location of the head of the family's duty assignment.

The demoralization in the army has affected not only the lower ranks, most of whom have already long abandoned the location of their compulsory service assignment. The officer corps too is guilty of resorting to speculation and of violating the military oath.

According to data in the possession of the CIS Joint Armed Forces' committee for work with personnel, three divisions (Vladikavkaz, Groznyy, Buynaksk) are to be withdrawn to Russia in the very near future. It seems, however, that the withdrawal of troops from the region will entail a new wave of problems. And, Prokofyev predicts, these will be linked with the Cossacks. At a recent meeting between the leadership of the CIS Joint Armed Forces and Cossack representatives the latter's aim was clearly discernible: Cossack units must take the place of the regular troops in the North Caucasus.

Russia is accused of flirting with the Cossacks, Prokofyev said, whereas the process of the Cossacks' militarization is acquiring a larger dimension and—what is the main thing—is ceasing to be controllable. A factory manufacturing Circassian sabers is operating in Rostov, Prokofyev reported, while the Kuban Cossack Assembly has obtained from Kiev 12 million rubles for arms purchases. "We are pulling out of the region," Prokofyev said, "but the interests of Russia dictate the reverse."

'People's Assembly' Proposes 'Shadow Cabinet'

OW2204143092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1014 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Shortly, the Russian People's Assembly movement (RPA) will introduce members of the shadow Cabinet. (The RPA unites the Christian Democratic Movement, the Constitutional Democratic Party and a number of other political organizations—IF [INTERFAX]). Governor of Sakhalin Nikolay Fyodorov has been nominated to the post of shadow prime minister.

The shadow Cabinet consists of about 20 members, among them chairman of the Russian Christian Democratic Movement Viktor Aksyuchits and chairman of the

Constitutional Democratic Party Mikhail Astafyev, who have already agreed to take part in the shadow cabinet's activity.

According to IF sources, none of the current ministers figures in the list. However, an RPA functionary said this did not mean that they will not be offered places in the shadow Cabinet. "No one excels Gaydar in finances," he said. "It would be tactless, however, to ask him to join the shadow cabinet today."

Economic Problems Set Stage for Future Strikes

PM2204154192 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS FAX
DIGEST in English 20 Apr 92

[Article by Business MN [Moscow News] correspondent Rustam Narzikulov: "Strike Movement on the Wane"]

[Text] Although the decrease in real incomes in the first quarter of 1992 was much higher than in the same period last year, the number and strength of collective labour conflicts has been twice as low.

A hallmark of today's strikes is the absence of political demands. The attempt made by the FNPR [Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia] to stage a strike against the policy of price liberalization ended in failure. The most active strikers were workers in budget-supported sectors of the non-productive sphere who intercepted the initiative from "traditional" strikers employed in extractive industries. The change in strike activities occurred because the government found effective means for meeting the demands of miners, oil and transport workers. The conflict in the oil industry was extinguished by increasing the share of oil sold at free prices and by the government's promise to set soon the prices of power resources totally free. On January 23 (in the middle of the winter when reserves of coal were nearly depleted at heat and power plants) a protocol was signed due to the threat of strike action. A threefold increase of tariff rates in the coal industry costing Russia 22 billion roubles was agreed. After the signing of sectoral agreements tensions eased on airlines and railroads. Simultaneously strike action mounted in the non-productive sphere, especially in education and health care. A large number of the 30,000 teachers and physicians who struck from January to February lived in the fuel and raw materials regions where the increase in wages of miners and oil workers aroused discontent among those who received their pay from the budget. Therefore, despite the 2.8-fold increase in the salaries of teachers, for example, in January, the local authorities were again compelled to look for money with which to meet their demands. Teachers are encouraged to strike by the July 16, 1991 Decree No. 1 of the President of Russia (signed at the height of celebrations to mark Yeltsin's victory) which says salaries in public education must not be lower than average wages in industry.

In contrast to large industrial centres the socio-political situation in the Russian provinces is more stable. Prices here are 50 to 70 per cent lower, food supply is better and

there is a higher level of self-sufficiency and hence lower dependence on the state system of supply and payment in cash. On the whole the rural population has responded to the liberalization shock with relative calm.

In the immediate future the budget-supported sectors will be Russia's most inflammable. Whereas 22 per cent of the total number of industrial workers are ready to take part in protest actions, among the intelligentsia their number comes to 32 per cent. Teachers and physicians will be complemented with kindergarten staff (especially departmental ones) where the pay for the maintenance of children has been raised dozens of times. This has diminished demand for their services with the result that both workers of kindergartens and mothers of children at preschool age are being made redundant (which is felt most acutely in the Volgograd, Kirov, Kurgan and Moscow regions and in Chuvashia).

A growth is expected in the number of strikes when leaders of state-run enterprises switch to work on a contract basis. There is no avoiding conflicts due to privatization. To all appearances, it will be impossible to ease social tensions caused by the lack of ready money in a number of regions (primarily the Tyumen, Kemerovo and Novosibirsk regions, Bashkiria and Tatarstan, the Altay and Krasnoyarsk territories). The first eruption of unemployment in Russia, due to mass financial insolvency of state-run enterprises, is also expected in late April and early May.

Investment Attracted To Help Oil Industry

OW2304004992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1929 GMT 22 Apr 92

[From "Interfax Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The international financial association "Menatep" intends to bring in 50 bn [billion] rubles and "several millions of dollars" in investments to Russia's fuel and energy complex in 1992, Vladislav Surkov, a member of "Menatep's" board of directors told IF [INTERFAX].

According to Mr. Surkov, a significant portion of the funds invested will be directed to enterprises in Russia's defense industry to convert them to produce equipment essential for the oil industry.

It is surmised that a consortium will be created to realize this program. Such a consortium would be made up of dozens of Russian enterprises in the oil and gas industry, as well as several of Russia's largest banks and exchanges which are already holding preliminary negotiations with "Menatep."

Mr. Surkov also confirmed the information leaked at a news conference in Moscow that "Menatep" had reached preliminary agreements with several foreign companies and banks, including Commerzbank AG, Atlas Financier, C.I.T.I. (Companie Internationale de

Technologie et d'Investissement) and NOGA to grant long term credits which will be paid off either in money or oil supplies.

According to Mr. Surkov, the new investment program was approved by the Russian government. In March 1992, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, head of "Menatep's" board of directors, was named chairman of the fund to attract investments at the Russian Ministry of Fuel and Energy, where he is the deputy minister.

Misleading Data on Budget Deficit Clarified

PM2204160592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 18 Apr 92 p 7

[Report by Vladimir Sluzhakov: "Chronicle of Plummeting Budget"]

[Text] The budget deficit that the government so wanted and which supposedly totaled just 19.2 billion rubles [R] does not, in the opinion of Russian Supreme Soviet experts, reflect the real state of affairs. There were attempts at the Congress to clarify the situation, but for incomprehensible reasons this fact has not been properly assessed.

However, here is the rundown of events. The Russian Supreme Soviet adopted a law 4 April on the budget for the first quarter of the year on the submission of the government and the document was checked out [zavizirovan] by the Finance Ministry and approved by the president 7 April. On the basis of this text Veniamin Sokolov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Subcommittee for Budget and Finance Questions, stated at the Congress that the real budget deficit is vast and that there has also been a vast blunder in the government's foreign economic activity. However, Yegor Gaydar in turn explained 9 April that the government's policy has been entirely borne out by practice. A situation of that same old double-entry bookkeeping has arisen: There are the figures that have been submitted to the Supreme Soviet, but there are also others for official use.

For instance, on the evening of 7 April an official document registered imposts and nontax income at R6.8 billion, while the figure of R36.2 billion appeared 9 April. Where did the extra R30 billion come from? According to Veniamin Sokolov, this is the key to the situation: R11.7 billion represent receipts from the reevaluation of goods due to the January price hike, R5.9 billion represent residual funds in the stabilization fund, R3 billion represent residual funds from union ministry accounts, R9 billion is revenue raised from the unfreezing of state resources, and R6 billion are ordinary imposts.

Thus, the Finance Ministry was aware of at least R25 billion out of that R36 billion a month before the materials were given to the Supreme Soviet, but this money was not recorded for some reason. This hidden additional source of revenue was, in Sokolov's opinion, used to compensate for the value-added tax deficit—

R83.1 billion was collected instead of R128.9 billion (the government itself insisted on this figure).

Now a word about spending. In the "National Economy" section spending for the last quarter was approved, once again at the government's request, at R87.3 billion. But the Government demonstrated at the Congress that only R65.4 billion was spent. An unlikely success—spending on the national economy, sociocultural measures, and science dropped over a few days by R22 billion, R15 billion, and R1.3 billion respectively. The overall saving totaled almost R30 billion counting the overspending on defense and the militia.

If income and expenditure are taken together in the few days of the congress the budget deficit "dried up" by R60 billion, that is to 1.4 percent instead of 6 percent, thanks to the manipulation of the documents. Contrary to all the predictions and experts' expectations.

Moreover, if you consider that the R65.4 billion of actual spending on the national economy also includes the R22 billion that Burbulis "released" for the miners following his trip to the Kuzbass and Vorkuta without any legal grounds, the national economy really only received R35 billion instead of the originally requested R87.3 billion.

Where else have savings been made? January's forecasts proceeded on the premise that prices would rise by a factor of 3.5. The plan was to provide the population with compensation for 75 percent of the price hike. In reality prices rocketed far higher—by a factor of 4.8. For that reason GNP soared by a factor of 1.6. But spending was not amended. All budget-funded personnel were funded as initially planned, that is compensation was paid at a level of 60 percent of what was required. In effect budget-funded personnel were "denuded" and in one quarter medicine, education, and culture were brought to the brink of collapse.

Agricultural Market Relations Expanded

LD2204191192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1004 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Dzyublo]

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS—The Russian Ministry of Agriculture has made an attempt to boost market mechanisms in the agricultural sphere: It concluded an agreement on cooperation with commodity exchanges of the agro-industrial complex.

According to the estimates of specialists of the Russian Agricultural Exchange, some two million tonnes of grain are being stored at farms, which could be sold to the state. Specialists believe, and with good reason, that it is more profitable for peasants to sell grain through commodity exchanges, which give a real price for the goods and provide some organizing and other advantages. In this situation the state agricultural structures, which

failed to find an effective mechanism of stimulating the sales of farm produce, hope to do it with the help of commodity exchanges.

The priority measures, due to be put into effect in the near future, include the promotion of the normalisation of goods exchange within the CIS framework, the resumption of cooperation in the production of farm machinery and equipment, as well as the lifting of licensing of food deliveries inside the Russian Federation.

Effective measures are being planned to improve information supply for the agricultural sector. Specifically, the AGRO-PRESS news service has been founded by a number of stock and commodity exchanges and the Russian News Agency (ITAR-TASS). It will prepare and promptly circulate information about the agricultural market situation inside and outside Russia, which is badly needed by peasants and agricultural business circles.

Cash Money Crisis Continues Unabated

LD2204204392 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1356 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS—"The emission of cash money increased in Russia by 90 billion roubles in the first quarter of 1992 as compared to the last three months of 1991. It will increase by another 52 billion in the second quarter," says a statement issued by the Central Bank of Russia here today.

The document says that despite the sharp increase of the amount of money in circulation, the "cash money crisis" continues unabated. The shortage of "cash resources amounted to almost 40 billion roubles on April 1".

The Bank believes one of the reasons for this are the "snowballing spendings to pay for the work done in the material sphere". Thus, the amount of "cash money paid in the form of wages grew by 46 per cent as compared to January, and by another 29 per cent in March. The tendency persists in April, too".

At the same time, the output of durables, consumer goods and the range of paid services to the population are shrinking steadily. "The cash money issued by Banks does not return to them," the document says.

In light of this situation, the Central Bank recommends local government bodies to "take measures in order to draw into circulation the cash money possessed by the population by boosting the output of consumer goods, expanding retail trade and paid services".

The bank draws attention to the decision adopted by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on January 13, 1992, "to effect settlements among juridical persons only by clearance". It is also necessary to "broadly introduce international type cheques, with which the population could purchase goods. Forty-three million cheque books have already been mailed to various regions of Russia.

KGB Attempt to Poison Solzhenitsyn Denied

LD2204170192 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1309 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By CRIMEPRESS-TASS correspondent Pavel Ovchinnikov]

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS—The KGB tried to poison the famous Russian writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn in 1971, but the administered dose of poison proved insufficient. Such sensational reports have recently appeared in several Western newspapers, particularly in the Italian "LA STAMPA" and the British "GUARDIAN". They were based on an article by Dmitriy Ližhanov in the weekly "SOVERSHENNO SEKRETNO" (TOP SECRET).

"The publication in the weekly, based on 'testimony' obtained from 'former KGB officer Boris Ivanov from the city of Novocherkassk, Rostov region', are absolutely groundless," Chief of a sector in the Russian Ministry for Security Andrey Chernenko told CRIMEPRESS-TASS today. "The more so, since no such 'KGB officer' had ever served in the security service," he added.

"Personally I don't believe all this," Chernenko said. "The eminent dissident writer, I think, was at that time given special care and protection not to allow, God forbid, anything to happen to him."

"Solzhenitsyn did not appeal either to the KGB or the Russian Ministry for Security to look into the case," Chernenko stressed. "If we get such an request, we shall be obliged to launch an investigation. And we shall definitely do it," he said.

Spokesmen Deny Story on Spying Reorientation

PM2204144192 Moscow *KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian* 18 Apr 92 p 5

[Report by I. Chernyak: "Dagger Caught in Cloak"]

[Text] Following the scandal over Bakatin, who presented the United States with bugging technology from the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, the information carried in the newspaper DEN about secret orders from Academician Primakov, the present boss of Russian intelligence, somehow went unnoticed although serious accusations have been made. Primakov has been accused of reorienting the technical intelligence subdepartments toward work in the interests of various commercial structures, and Russian spies will now steal secrets and the latest technologies from foreign firms and pass them to our businessmen for hard currency. According to the newspaper's information, foreign firms will mainly be the consumers of information from another, scientific research, intelligence subdepartment. It cites as proof the activity of retired General O. Kalugin, who is setting up a private firm for the purpose of supplying foreign clients with information about Russia's economic position and the situation in the CIS states. According to DEN's data, the intelligence training institute plans to open special training courses for employees of security departments

and services of various commercial structures. "It is hard to even imagine the consequences of the state's voluntarily arming the mafia with special knowledge about bugging equipment, cryptographic writing, concealed video recording..."

I would not say that people at the Central Intelligence Service Press Bureau were pleased.

"Primakov simply has not issued any secret orders to develop commerce," Press Secretary Tatyana Samoylis told me, although she did admit that the possibility is being discussed of introducing some points connected with commercial activity into the Law on Intelligence which is being prepared.

"Not all our businessmen are active in the shadow economy or are mafiosi," Samoylis said. "Why can we not read Russian entrepreneurs a lecture on how to protect their secrets or help them to organize a system of protection? What if someone like Savva Morozov, before whom we will doff our cap tomorrow, becomes a client of ours?" At the same time she gave an assurance that there can be no question of handing over any "specialized knowledge of bugging equipment, etc."

Concerning the question of analytical materials, Samoylis admitted that intelligence already provides interested persons with certain information. But, according to her, this information is not secret. "We use only open information, including foreign sources, we analyze it and draw our own conclusions—which, in principle, is something anyone can do. The chief value of such an analysis, apart, of course, from the competence, is the 'reliable' signature: 'intelligence.'" The press secretary maintained that all closed information goes, as previously, to the president and the government of Russia.

Tatyana Samoylis also reported that she knows nothing about Kalugin's present activity. Yuriy Kobaladze, chief of the Central Intelligence Service Press Bureau, was more frank: "We have data to the effect that Kalugin uses for personal purposes information which he once obtained by dint of his position. But he is now a free agent, and we do not yet have, unfortunately, a legitimate framework to limit his activity."

The Press Bureau spokespersons did not deny that the financial position of Russian intelligence officers today is highly unenviable. "Of course, it is difficult. The wages of our employees are no more than those of servicemen, and the problems are the same. Of course, it is our dream to have a budget of \$30 billion, like the CIA, but we realize that this is unrealistic today." Despite everything, however, Samoylis and Kobaladze rejected even the idea of the possibility of rectifying matters by means of selling information: "If intelligence starts to trade, it is no longer intelligence but an information bureau. And the money made would suffice only for social needs or to assist veterans. Amounts hundreds of times greater are required to fulfill the main tasks."

Theater Director Recounts Talk With Yeltsin

PM2304084492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Article by theater director Mark Zakharov: "A Visit to the President"]

[Text] I have a plausible pretext. I have to deliver to the president the First Humanitarian Award of the American Foundation for the Performing Arts. The luxurious Beverly Wilshire hall in Los Angeles was the venue 30 March for a grand ceremony for the presentation of the awards instituted by the Foundation. By tradition it is held at the same time as the famous Oscar award ceremony.

This time all the attention was focused on the historic transformations in Russia. The Foundation's Trustees Council is instituting for the first time in its history the First Humanitarian Award for B.N. Yeltsin "as a sign of recognition," as the Americans write, "of his courage and boldness on the path to democracy on which he and his people have embarked." Special significance here is attached to the outstanding role which B.N. Yeltsin played in the events of August 1991.

It was a moving and solemn act, especially for me because I was the Russian president's representative who, on his behalf, was to receive the beautiful and very heavy metal statuette and of course make some very brief statement, wearing a smile and a tuxedo. Such is the tradition, and the administration of the Moscow Lenin Komsomol Theater and I did our best to conform to it, at least regarding the tuxedo, which I always felt it premature to acquire despite perestroika and the radical reforms of the Ye. Gaydar government.

For some reason I mentioned all this to Boris Nikolayevich, although I realized that I was spending precious time on personal feelings and irony, something I cannot avoid even at the most solemn of occasions. However, the president, to my surprise, gave the impression that today he had nothing more important to do than listen to my conflicting opinions of the ceremony at the Beverly Wilshire hall. At that time the Kremlin was groaning under the pressure of the "party-economic aktiv," which considered itself a superparliament and was concentrating all its efforts on the job of renaming St. Petersburg back to Leningrad.

"This unique assembly of electors has set itself so many urgent tasks!" I thought, but I refrained for the while from criticizing the deputies. As a former deputy myself I am well aware how difficult it is for an amateur to voluntarily abandon his legislative ambitions and his participation in televised greetings and outbursts.

I described the successful talks which Vladimir Kiselev from St. Petersburg and Levon Ayrapetyan, commercial director of SOBESEDNIK, held with business circles in Los Angeles. The first 40-tonne consignment of humanitarian aid for the children of the northern capital is

arriving in the very near future. The first but not the last. I mentioned the complex drama in the American Foundation's activity and what seemed to us a certain lack of administrative coordination in the the organization of the ceremony but I paid tribute to Mr Michel Litvak, one of the galaxy of rich and talented people who skillfully combine business and culture.

That final phrase was taken from my brief speech of thanks which I ventured to deliver on behalf of those figures of Russian culture who support their president in his difficult struggle for radical state transformations. "He who has served his own time serves all times," I said, using the words of an apt saying as I received the award for the president. In general, I think, my speeches from the stage are pleasing by their brevity.

Boris Nikolayevich gave the impression that I was performing if not the most important state assignment then at least quite a delicate one. He thanked me cheerfully and a little jocularly. I thanked him, too, thinking that the tuxedo is always available and if the next prize is to be awarded in such a prestigious venue as Hollywood the president can count on me.

The conversation turned next to the future of the country's culture, this time without any irony, of course. I began by listing all the problems that have befallen us as a result of the changes in the economic situation and the threat hanging over many Russian theaters and cultural centers generally. Boris Nikolayevich nodded and fell glumly silent. Of course, the "petitioner's reflex," characteristic of us all, stirred in me and I complained to the president that it would be good to have both the former and the latter and that not all the responsible people in the leadership understand that serious repertory theater with a permanent company, for which the Russian theater was always renowned, cannot be a profitable venture. The Moscow government and Yu.M. Luzhkov understand this but then Moscow is not the whole of Russia. The specifics of Russian theater are often not taken into account in our general state legislation, there is no special or well formulated legal regulation, and we have fallen very much behind the civilized countries on questions of the socio-legal protection of the creative intelligentsia. It is wonderful that the dubious All-Union Copyright Agency has been replaced by a new organization, namely the Russian Intellectual Property Agency, with a highly professional leadership, yet we are still not party to the Bern Convention! But to independently elaborate similar legal mechanisms, including for the protection of copyright and similar rights, would take many years of work by specialists of whom there are hardly any in the country.

The president told me in sorrow and in confidence that he feels he owes a debt to the country's culture but at the moment, regrettably, is unable to do all that is necessary. "Suffer a little longer, grit your teeth, and get through the most difficult but not long phase in our radical transformations and then much will change,"—that was roughly what he said.

In theory I understand that. You can, of course, console yourself with the thought that it is not just theatrical figures who are in dire straits. But that does not work for me. Professional passions are paramount.

So as not to appear a hopeless whiner, I told the president that I still see no creative crisis in Russian theatrical life. A powerful and dangerous breakup of the old mechanisms and tastes is in progress. Contemporaries have always been dissatisfied with the theater. But in the past professional critics praised some shows to the skies for their so-called workers theme and that is why it seemed that there were more masterpieces then. There were more masterpieces but there was less information. Times have changed and it seems that everyone is beginning to remember that true theatrical events have always been few in number everywhere. Both in our country and on Broadway.

"When will we see a new show from the Lenin Komsomol Theater?" the president asked.

"We have just produced a children's show, the 'Musicians of Bremen,'" I said with a look that suggested that the history of Russia had taken a new course after this event.

I do not want to complain about the new prices for paint and nails any more....

"In my opinion, our brothers in the movies have a new surprise for us. At Mosfilm I have just seen an unfinished work by the producer V. Dostal and the director S. Govorukhin called 'The Russia We Have Lost.' It is very similar to a documentary movie but it seems to me that this is not cinema, it is something quite different. It is as if a new art form is being born before our eyes. It is a subjective, philosophical, penetrating, and stunning study, in short, an unrecognized aesthetic object. I do not agree with those who 'want the pen to equal a gun' [Mayakovskiy quotation] but in my view at Mosfilm they have created a powerful weapon in the struggle for a great, indivisible, and prosperous Russia. Boris Nikolayevich! Make sure as soon as possible that the movie is not reduced to a single copy!"

Boris Nikolayevich gave the impression that he was searching under the table at which we were sitting in his office for a secret button to issue an emergency summons to Dostal and Govorukhin. We laughed and I was very glad that the president could be diverted at least for a moment from Baburin and Makashov.

After that I showed what I think was bad manners because for a while we were talking at the same time.

Boris Nikolayevich said that the more he thinks about our fatherland the more he believes in the development and flowering of Russian might in the very near future. I quoted almost from memory the brilliant idea of the wise historian V.O. Klyuchevskiy: "One distinguishing feature of a great people is its ability to rise to its feet after a fall. No matter how grave its humiliation, when the

appointed hour strikes it will gather its confused moral forces and embody them in one great person or several great people who will lead it back to the historic road that it left temporarily."

Then for some reason the conversation turned to America again.

"Are you friends with Bush?"

"Not yet. A personal mutual understanding is beginning."

I did not think it proper to make any notes during the conversation, so that now and afterwards I am quoting from memory roughly what was said.

"When the three of us were alone—Bush, his interpreter, and I," Boris Nikolayevich suddenly said, "I said that I could not yet give firm guarantees of honest cooperation. Probably this is not the done thing among politicians but I said: We are still swindling you, Mr Bush. We promised to scrap bacteriological weapons. But some of our experts did everything possible to keep the truth from me. It was not easy but I outsmarted them. I caught them red-handed. I found two test sites. They poisoned the soil with anthrax, then released animals there and watched how they died and when. My concern is to ensure that these scientists, some brilliant men among them, channel their talent in a different direction and that the mortal threat hanging over certain parts of the country should be efficiently removed. But that is not all. In terms of the number of nuclear weapons we have also been dishonest. That is how we were raised. We deceived you over the size of the army and the promised reduction. We understated the composition of the armed forces deliberately so that the actual reduction was less than promised."

This information was stunning, and, after having recovered, I asked about Bush, what was his reaction.

Boris Nikolayevich smiled wryly.

"First he was perplexed, excited, then he was touched. And I...I simply have not learned to deceive, neither the Russians, nor the Americans."

"This is no good," said I, trying to look wise. "Politics is a dirty business. It is necessary to deceive."

Boris Nikolayevich understood what I was driving at.

"There is nothing left to live for in this century. It is necessary to put an end to its bad traditions, to strip politics of lies and double-thinking. There should be no more 'politics' of this kind. Bush, it seems, is ready for this, while we...are not yet exactly."

"People abroad often ask me about you," said I in order to change the topic. "Journalists have besieged me: What do I personally think of Yeltsin?"

"Did you criticize?"

"I was tempted to because I am a former deputy. But I restrained myself. With difficulty. I told them that there is one quality for which I, as a theater producer, value our president: He is not afraid to tolerate in his vicinity striking characters, people of a new generation who speak and think well, and sometimes also look..."

"Smarter than Yeltsin," the president prompted, and went on to praise his young aides at length. "Who knows how long I will remain in this post?"

I was just preparing the sort of remarks that would have been made to Brezhnev in this sort of situation, but the president gestured: "There is no need."

"It is very important for a new type of people to emerge and assert themselves, people who will serve Russia with honor, a great and renewed Russia. These people should be helped now. Perhaps they need to be corrected sometimes, but it must be done so that they do not forget how to argue back, so that they feel that they are the creators rather than helpers."

I very much wanted to learn something about Japan, which Boris Nikolayevich is about to visit, and where I have never been.

"Our planet is beautiful," I told the president, permitting myself a monologue, "but it is at the limit of its ecological potential, and somehow we still cannot agree how to share it out! Next to us, in the East, we have not just a powerful neighbor, but essentially another civilization. How can we not avail ourselves of the proposed joint creative work? After all, our Sakhalin and Maritime Kray may turn into paradise on Earth in a matter of years! How many more decades, or more probably centuries do we have to suffer, choking on industrial waste, to attain Japan's technical and scientific level of 1992?"

The president sighed, but was unwilling to talk about Japan. It is a difficult topic.

"Soon you will be holding talks there,"—I could not stop myself now—"and the Japanese are bound to remind you of Khrushchev's promise to return a few specks of land in the South Kurils, which we gained in 1945. What will you say to them?"

The president rightly declined to give a quick answer to my dilettantish question. First he spoke about something else:

"There is the Great 'Silk Road' project, which will link us up with Japan via friendly Central Asian states and China. It seems that the Japanese are ready to jointly swiftly implement it."

I decided that sometimes it is necessary to argue even with the president.

"It will not work! Too much pride is tied up with these Kuril rocks in our country. It's like a chronic disease: People are haunted by the idea that we are selling off

Russia. This is a dark-age mentality! Meanwhile Russian industrial development, which, sadly, ended in 1914, was built on very close cooperation with European capital. At the time Russia's self-made entrepreneurs and talented industrialists were not afraid of this because they saw that the state and its people were growing rich together with them. I apologize for the elementary textbook examples!"

"You are forgiven," the president smiled.

"Sometimes Khrushchev acted like a wise politician," said I, trying not to think about how he banged his shoe on the rostrum. "He admitted in front of the world community that we had a debt which had to be repaid. After all, cries of indignation could have been raised also as regards Port Arthur, which was drenched with Russian blood, but which we returned to China. But we restrained ourselves! So why do we permit ourselves now to shout: We do not need Japan! We do not need its technology, and tiresome electronics and information science! We can get by with our native wit! Perhaps in 50 or 100 years we will actually be able to get by, but not now! We are behaving like the old women who are waving banners at the Lenin Museum and under deputies' noses!"

"Leave the old women out of it," Boris Nikolayevich rebuked me. "It is possible to understand them. Life is hard."

"That is true. But how is it possible to tolerate insulting posters? Would they dare to raise their voice against the British queen? There should be precise legislation about causing moral damage, and it should be actively introduced in court practice, because otherwise Stalinist extremists and anarchists of all stripes will feel that they can act with impunity."

At his point I reflected. Was I getting on the president's nerves? If I was, he did not show it, but simply explained, as man to man, that he had no intention of taking anyone to court, that this was profoundly against his nature.

"But it is not a question of you, personally, Boris Nikolayevich. If the inflammatory calls are not nipped in the bud, if we allow vulgar aggressive behavior to become the norm, we will never rise above legal illiteracy. There is a direct link here with the expanding criminal spheres which are now methodically destroying our citizens and law enforcement organs."

"I am aware of this. Give me time—we will equip the militia with state-of-the-art gear, and protect the health, life, and honor of the guardians of the law."

"Will you bring down taxes?"

"Definitely."

"Why is there such a terrible gulf between state and private property?"

"Because until very recently the Union president would not even hear of private property. I took hard knocks defending this sacred human right."

"A racketeer will not approach KamAZ [Kama Automobile Plant] or the 'Krasny Proletariy' plant. He is getting more brazen but not to the extent to try and blackmail state enterprises. The sphere of his income is small businesses. At the moment only men of iron have chosen this profession. We must bring in uniform legislation, and for the time being at least issue a proclamation about the sacredness of private property which the state pledges to protect, using all its might."

I decided rashly that the president was not busy and that he must hear out all my impassioned words. But the president very soon began talking about something else.

"The plight of our servicemen is a source of great personal distress," the president sighed. "When they leave the service I want them to be given large plots of land on preferential terms so that they can build themselves houses, not temporary dwellings."

"But if they are immediately stifled by your taxes..."

"No," Boris Nikolayevich stated firmly, "in the first years of this process there will be no taxes. Generally speaking, expanded reproduction in all spheres must be advantageous. Taxes will be cut everywhere. Not overnight, unfortunately, but gradually. It is impossible to do everything that you now want to do immediately."

"What if the old women brandishing Lenin's picture for hours on end start making onion soup for sale, for example..."

"Leave the old women out of it!"

"Fine. What if the old men do not feel that you are protecting them but are robbed by racketeers, the health clinic, and local corrupt officials—fear of the small businessmen who are rescuing the country will stop all their good intentions. The Congress, which is in uproar right now, will not really protect the small businessman and private farmer. The government wants to show sympathy and faith but there is no new Stolypin [reforming tsarist prime minister] there yet!"

The president was poised to say something about the Congress but shrugged and decided not to.

"Is there anything like our Russian congresses in world democracy?"

"No," Boris Nikolayevich sighed, "We are the only ones in the world who hold a 1,000-strong superparliamentary assembly."

"To have two parliaments is costly and damaging to the nervous system. Such a thing is simply impossible in France, for example," I said cautiously, recalling the state of nervous exhaustion and dread created by the frenzied amateurs at the Union congresses. "But perhaps

this is a new and special democracy like a continuation of our beloved party-economic acts?"

"France is a rule-of-law, democratic state," the president smiled.

"That's nice for the French," I thought and suddenly and injudiciously asked: "Why did R.I. Khasbulatov change like that?"

"If we answer all the questions now," Boris Nikolayevich said light-heartedly, "there will be nothing worth meeting for next time."

Yeltsin's aide began looking into the office every minute, solicitously reminding him of his scheduled meetings and conferences.

More than ever before I wanted the president and his young team to accomplish the main things that he has planned for the daunting months ahead. I wanted his will, reason, and humor to help in the struggle against the heirs of Leninist lawlessness. And, as sometimes happens in the theater and in flying, that he has some luck. Just a little.

I was about to say that in Russia there are quite a few weary people living hard lives, including in the long-suffering sphere of culture, people who nevertheless continue to actively support and believe in the first president of the great, multinational Russia to be elected by all the people. But I was afraid of lapsing into sentimentality and, so as not to be like my predecessors, I took my leave of the president as though this were an ordinary event for me. As though we meet and talk every day.

Boris Nikolayevich wished the Russia theater courage and success but I left feeling guilty that I had taken up too much of this very simple and yet enigmatic man's time.

Role of Intelligentsia as Opposition Viewed

*PM2204112592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 4*

[Article by Candidate of Philosophical Sciences Svetlana Klishina: "When Democracy's Fate Is Being Decided, Opposition Means One Thing—Reaction"]

[Text] When you look in your wallet—and it will be empty a week after you have been paid—everyone is furiously dissatisfied with the president and the government. Well, an economic situation whereby two-thirds of Russia's honest workers cannot live on their pay is scandalous. And I can understand all the desperate critics—but not the intelligentsia. Because they have the most important thing—spiritual freedom, a necessary condition for professional work.

Have we really forgotten how we used to read books in secret, how we listened to foreign radio stations in fear of being reported, how we dreamed of glasnost, political freedom, and an economy free of politics, and how we

praised Western democracy and their parliamentary system while mocking the poverty of our ideological clichés and suffering at the sight of slogans which followed us everywhere—even into the woods? Have we forgotten how our hearts would sink to hear of how yet another colleague who had spoken out in defense of dissidents had found his career ruined? How we would crack political jokes in our kitchens and sigh from the humiliation of having to fill in endless questionnaires? How our hearts would sink when faced with another Central Committee instruction to give six lectures and hold four seminars on the general secretary's brilliant terminology? How we would grit our teeth when listening to remarks from illiterate rayon and city party committee inspectors who would count up how many times you had used the word "party" in your lectures and how many minutes you had spent talking about the advantages of the socialist method of production?....

It seems that we have all completely forgotten. And now some of our intelligentsia have joined the opposition with gusto. "I want to maintain an independent stance," "we need a constructive opposition," "it is the intelligentsia's duty to criticize"—these and similar comments are most often heard among the intelligentsia these days.

Of course, an opposition is a good and necessary thing. It is when some party or social group conducts a policy opposed to the official authorities. Under the conditions of stable democracy and a stable economy opposition is the most reliable way of maintaining this stability. But when the fate of a political freedom that has only just been won is put at stake, opposition can mean only one thing—reaction. And since history knows of no instance of a voluntary counter-coup, this means that such an opposition could end in yet another violent revolution or coup. Haven't we had enough of that?

When the government is geared to preserving political and economic freedom, it deserves support—despite all its mistakes. And support from the intelligentsia above all. Now, at this crucial time in Russian history, I see the intelligentsia's role as being to search for compromise, to analyze what is happening, and to propagandize reform. Let us remember the result of the collapse of Russian radical thinking and the reform government in the 1860's and 1870's. Herzen awoke Chernyshevskiy, Chernyshevskiy awoke the narodniks, and they all awoke each other in turn right up to L. Brezhnev—who, it seems, could not be woken up.

But support does not rule out the fiercest criticism of the government line or amendments to it. Who other than the intelligentsia can resolve the task of combining all reforms into a unified system and setting them in a social context? Talk about a left-wing opposition is malicious. The political games by numerous parties which do not have programs different from the government program do not amount to opposition, but to a fight for positions of power. After all, there are fewer positions of power than there are parties.

Regional Affairs

Luzhkov Sees Moscow Bus Strike as 'Sabotage'

PM2304092892 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
17 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Viktor Belikov: "Yu. Luzhkov: Moscow Transport Workers' Strike Is Sabotage"]

[Text] A harsh and uncompromising assessment of the strike by several bus depots and some trolleybus drivers was given by the Moscow government at a news conference 15 April.

As has already been reported, early last Wednesday morning about one-fifth of the entire bus fleet and over 100 trolleybuses unexpectedly failed to appear on the routes that take Muscovites to their workplaces. The conflict that had been brewing among drivers and maintenance staff since the winter was supposed to have been resolved by this stage: A conciliation commission came to an acceptable decision literally the evening before.

Among other things, from April the average wage of bus depot workers, trolleybus and streetcar drivers, and technical service workers in Moscow has been set at a level of 5,000-6,000 rubles [R]. With a great deal of strain, the city authorities have managed to find \$22 million to acquire spare parts for Ikarus buses and Czechoslovak streetcars—transport workers also put forward that demand during talks.

The strike took place in part all the same, and moreover it was accompanied by intimidation and direct threats of violence directed against those who decided to report for work. At the same time the Moscow militia adopted a strange stance of noninterference, refusing to protect the drivers from the hooligan actions of certain strike instigators and their accomplices. An official investigation into this matter is already under way.

"This was no labor conflict capable of being resolved by legal means," government premier Yu. Luzhkov stated, answering an IZVESTIYA correspondent's question. "We are dealing with an obvious attempt to sabotage the Moscow Administration's efforts to normalize economic life in the city and to put its overstretched budget in order. How can they demand a 'wage rise to R15,000 per month' when many categories of workers in other professions in the city do not earn one-tenth of this money?"

The obviously impossible condition laid down by a certain "committee of social protection" was deliberately calculated to cause a specific political effect with a view to discrediting the executive power in Moscow, and was timed to coincide with the Congress that is currently under way. The most vigorous action was held in outlying areas of the city where there are no subway lines. It was here that the disruption to transportation was felt most keenly.

Entrepreneurs Reject Borovoy Stance on Moscow

PM2204132492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
20 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Aleksey Ivkin: "Not All Entrepreneurs Agree With Borovoy That Moscow Government Should Be Ousted"]

[Text] The Moscow Convention of Entrepreneurs [MCE]—headed by the broker Konstantin Borovoy, a "veteran" of the Russian business scene—has been conducting an aggressive campaign for the ouster of the Moscow government for a week now.

Last week, as is well known, the MCE published a declaration that was a tirade against the capital's apparatus, which is mired in corruption, and held a news conference on the same subject. An impassioned MCE appeal was also addressed to Muscovites—to come to City Hall 18 April and demand the ouster of the authorities.

In Issue No. 87 of our newspaper we published City Hall's response to the declaration along with the MCE's position. In it the group of entrepreneurs was accused of striving to maintain its monopoly over the Moscow exchange market and to acquire political power too.

City Hall's desire to rebuff these accusations is entirely understandable. However, the MCE's position prompted a negative reaction not only from the authorities, but also among entrepreneurs who do not belong to the group headed by the president of the Russian Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange—K. Borovoy. These entrepreneurs also consider themselves entitled to issue a statement.

The authors of the statement express regret that their colleague, the leader of a major exchange, could find no other method at this very difficult time for society than to call for new upheavals. Social tension is growing. The image of a broker attending a rally—just like the spectacle of a fugitive banker—is no less alarming under these conditions than political discussions in the armed forces. And although, the document states, judging by his past experience of declaring Moscow to be an "unfavorable area for enterprise," Mr. K.N. Borovoy has developed a definite taste for such gestures, we appeal to him to sacrifice his habit for the sake of general peace and the organization of a dialogue between business and the authorities.

"We are confident," the writers note, "that there are more than enough reasons for such a dialogue in Moscow and in Russia. We agree that the government—any government—is not doing everything it can to encourage investment, reduce the tax burden, implement privatization, and so forth. We categorically disagree with the idea that on this basis the government should be insulted and that people should join forces with the lumpen and certain deputies in order to oust it or to provoke the darkest sentiments among the mob by making accusations that the fatherland is being sold off to foreigners.

An organization or individual which digs a hole for the government in this way risks finding itself an outsider in the business world.

"We ask all parties to the conflict to take these circumstances into consideration. We also draw the attention of the mayor and government of Moscow to the need to examine the commercial projects put forward by M. Borovoy and the structures that empowered him."

Moscow Gasoline Price Discrepancies Eliminated

PM2304103692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
21 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Taranov: "Moscow Has Ceased To Be an Enclave of Cheap Gasoline"]

[Text] Gasoline prices in Moscow quintupled on average on 20 April. Henceforth one liter of AI-93 will cost six rubles [R], one liter of A-76 will cost R5, and one liter of AI-95 will cost R7.

One cannot expect sympathy for Moscow motorists from their provincial colleagues, since fuel and lubricant prices in other cities and villages rose a long time ago. For instance, in Rostov-na-Donu gasoline costs R6.60 per liter, in Krasnodar it costs R6.50, and in Nizhniy Novgorod it costs R12. In neighboring states of the CIS and in the Baltic republics the cost of fuel has soared to altogether astronomical levels—from R800 per can in Tbilisi to 75 cents per liter in Vilnius. Moscow alone, for some mysterious reason, remained an enclave of cheap gasoline and diesel. Which, in recent months, has caused enormous lines to form at the pumps—Muscovites stocking up with gasoline at R1.20, people from outside buying it for resale.

The fuel and lubricant price discrepancies were eliminated by the 17 April Russian Government resolution "On the Introduction of New Common Wholesale and Retail Gasoline Prices on 20 April." Let us stress that we are not talking about the liberalization of fuel and lubricant prices, but merely about uniformity. At the moment no one knows what gasoline will cost when prices of energy resources are freed.

In the meantime Moscow cab drivers are preparing for new tariffs. They will probably treble (from R2 to R6 per kilometer), although this has not yet been finalized.

By and large the fuel and lubricant price situation is extremely uncertain. The gasoline situation seems clear, but we do not know the new cost of motor oil and gas used by automobiles at filling stations—the government has not announced it yet.

Tatarstan President on Sovereignty, Centrism

PM2204153792 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS FAX
DIGEST in English 20 Apr 92

[Untitled interview with Tatarstan Republic President Mintimer Shaymiyev by Moscow News correspondent Lev Ovrutsky; place and date not given]

[Text] MN [MOSCOW NEWS]: After the signing of the Treaty of Federation, which did not encompass Tatarstan and Checheniya. [sentence as published]

M.Sh. [Mintimer Shaymiyev]: The signing of the Federation Treaty was a major step forward. But we understand Khasbulatov's delight, though we subscribe to a somewhat different approach. We maintain that Tatarstan must have treaty-based relations with Russia. Moreover, while the Federation Treaty is founded on the principle of the delimitation of power, we would like to build our relations with Russia on the principle of mutual delegation of power. This is even more democratic: "from below" we delegate questions of defence, communications, etc. to Russia. Considering that Russia has a Tatar population of over five million, there is also something which Russia could delegate—e.g. the publication of textbooks and literature in Tatar.

MN: The provision that the republic is a constituent member of the Russian Federation has been excluded from the preamble of the Constitution of Tatarstan. If a treaty has been concluded on Tatarstan's entry into Russia on the principle of association—or any other principle—but without the right to secession, will the expunged provision be restored?

M.Sh.: The draft Constitution of the republic is ready and has passed the stage of nationwide discussion. Amendments have been introduced but so far the Constitution has not been adopted, since the most important thing is to clarify our relations with Russia. We must find a corresponding formula. One of the variants: Tatarstan is a sovereign state associated with the Russian Federation on the basis of a treaty. This is a flexible formula permitting the situation to develop naturally while not disrupting Russia's integrity.

MN: It stands to reason that Tatarstan can achieve its ends only given a democratic government in Russia. Should right-wingers of the State Emergency Committee type come to power, this would put an end to the republic's sovereignty. On the other hand, your policy has created impediments for Yeltsin. This is a contradiction. Isn't that so?

M.Sh.: I agree. But it's an objective contradiction we must resolve together. Our approach, as the referendum has shown, gives the citizens of the republic a sense of tranquility. On the other hand, I don't see what kind of damage it can inflict on Russians—be it in Siberia, Penza, Bryansk or Moscow. After all, it's the minimum criterion for a politician—to act in such a way that no one should be worse off.

MN: The contradiction we speak about—doesn't it cause strain in your personal relations with Yeltsin?

M.Sh.: I am very well disposed towards Yeltsin. I also sympathize with him—after all, on becoming the legal successor to the Union, Russia has had to shoulder an immense burden. Being the leader of a great power is not

easy. Least of all do I want to aggravate his difficulties, yet I can't waive the interests of Tatarstan's peoples.

MN: In summing up the results of the referendum on Tatarstan's independence you said there were neither winners nor losers in plebiscites. If this is so, how would you define the feelings of those who voted against, but found themselves in a minority?

M.Sh.: There were some who doubted whether the line towards establishing proper relations with Russia would be kept up. Now these doubts are being dispelled.

MN: At a session of Russia's Constitutional Court Vice-President Alexander Rutskoy suggested complementing the Criminal Code with articles making it possible (I quote): "to imprison national-careerists and separatists for a term of ten to fifteen years, otherwise we shall still have the Dudayevs and the Shaymiyevs". Don't you feel terrified? Or do you find it ridiculous?

M.Sh.: I'm disappointed, more than anything. One can understand Rutskoy's aptitude for simple solutions, but today interethnic relations are so complex, multidimensional and entangled that the distance between the desirable and the possible is too great. To personalize a problem means to exaggerate it. It was not I who originated the situation in the republic. You can imprison Shaymiyev for 15 years, but what is to be done with those who hopefully came to the polling stations on referendum day? Should they be sentenced to 15 days each?

MN: Some people have qualified your statement on non-secession from Russia as "unprecedented political unscrupulousness". Others have cast aspersions on the referendum's legality by referring to a decision of Russia's Constitutional Court. Your attitude is between these two extremes.

M.Sh.: For me centrism means a firm internationalist position. Nothing else is possible in a multinational republic such as Tatarstan. The slightest deviations from this course are fraught with serious losses. Inasmuch as I am a Tatar, there have been attempts to make me a standard-bearer of the national movement. I remember posters reading: "Shaymiyev, are you a Tatar?" I may be wrong, but it seems to me that the majority of both the Tatar and Russian-speaking populations treat me with respect. It appears that centrism means certainly not everyone is disgruntled with you.

MN: The republics' sovereignization was soon followed by their presidentization. Now the process of de-presidentization seems in evidence: Gamsakhurdia, Mutalibov...Evidently everyone assuming the office of president considers the problem of pre-term resignation.

M.Sh.: It's hard to predict specific circumstances. There is more than enough criticism. As they say, when the sea is rough there are plenty of wise men ashore. But I think that as long as people trust you it's impossible to drop

everything and go—no matter how bad you feel. And conversely, it's impossible to stay when you feel that you are no longer trusted.

MN: The first secretary of the regional party committee and the president—both are at the head of the republic. Which post did you find easiest?

M.Sh.: I am more inclined to economic pursuits—from my youth. Politics came along recently. Actually secretaries of party committees never went in for politics. There was no object for political struggle. I don't know whether that's good or bad. After all, economic and social problems have still to be resolved.

MN: You have definite seniority as a party functionary. Is this useful or is it something you would be glad to relinquish?

M.Sh.: I have acquired experience, i.e. an understanding of people, the ability to get an insight into a situation, take decisions and estimate the consequences. This, at any rate, is advantageous.

MN: A "grey cardinal" is usually sought among the entourage of every politician.

M.Sh.: I have grown accustomed to dealing with major problems, taking decisions and bearing responsibility for them. I fully trust the judgement of my aides and experts, but I prefer to shoulder the burden of responsibility myself. This gainsays the possibility of "cardinals".

MN: In biblical times it was already believed that kings lived in the times of prophets. In whose time does President Shaymiyev live?

M.Sh.: However banal this may sound, we all live in the time of Andrey Sakharov. Like many others, at first I didn't understand him—the information was biased. Who at that time understood the importance of human rights? And at what price Sakharov stood up for them! He was a man of science, and time has shown the accuracy of his foresight.

MN file

Mintimer Shaymiyev was born in 1937 in the Anyakovo village in Tataria. He graduated from the Kazan Agricultural Institute as a mechanical engineer. At the age of 25 he became manager of the Selkhoztekhnika (farm machinery) district association. Then he rose to become deputy department head at the CPSU Regional Committee, Minister of Land Improvement, First Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Secretary of the Regional Party Committee, and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Tatar ASSR. He is married and has two children. Wife Sakina Shakirovna, an economist by education, is now a housewife. Their son Airat, 30, works as a power engineering specialist; Radik, 28, is a builder.

Tatarstan Party Seeks Procurator's Dismissal

*LD2204112192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0800 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Text] Ittifak, the national party of Tatarstan, has accused the republican procurator's office of taking hostile actions on Moscow orders. Therefore, Procurator General Oleg Antonov, who is acting on orders from a different state, was invited to either move to that state or resign. This was a quote. All law enforcement bodies must be transferred to Tatarstan jurisdiction.

There were reports in today's republican press that the procurator's office was not against the transfer of law enforcement bodies under the jurisdiction of Tatarstan, but only after the adoption of government agreements and treaties. The Tatarstan procurator's office would ensure that Russian Federation laws are enforced, because there are enterprises, higher education schools and institutions on the territory of Tatarstan which are under Russian jurisdiction. The Tatarstan procurator's office has categorically rejected the language used by the Ittifak party, which had the arrogance to assume that it was speaking on behalf of all the peoples of the republic, says the document.

New Kazan Party Supports Tatarstan's Rights

*OW2204171392 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1602 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A division of the Russian National Assembly, comprising representatives of the patriotic society "Union" and the Russian party and patriotic organization "Russian Assembly" was formed in Kazan. The Kazan patriots share the aims and purposes of the Russian National Assembly (RNA), founded in Nizhny Novgorod in February 1992, and announce their intentions to defend the civilian, religious, political, and cultural rights and freedoms of Russians in Tatarstan. The purpose of the Kazan division of the RNA is to

assist in increasing the social and political awareness of Russians, to establish representatives of the organization in the local and republican power structures, and to attain a national proportional representation in government structures.

The Chairman of the Kazan division of the RNA Anatoliy Kuznetsov said in an interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] making Tatarstan a sovereign state is equally detrimental to Russians and Tatars, and will benefit only Russia's enemies "driving the Tatar sword into its very heart". Kuznetsov said the process of dividing Russia was developed in the West and is being continued by the current leadership whose policies are leading to the degeneration of Russians and the destruction of the Russian national concept. The Russian patriotic organizations, Kuznetsov stressed, reject the idea of creating an independent Tatarstan and at the same time recognize the right of Tatars to revive their national culture, traditions, and language.

Tatarstan Prices Continue To Rise

*OW2304090292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0623 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the first quarter of 1992 production in Tatarstan fell off by 9% according to statistics published in the republic. Production shortages amounted to 202 million rubles. In addition, a growth in production of 1.7% was noted in those firms transferred to the jurisdiction of Tatarstan.

As compared with the first quarter of last year production of electricity decreased by 3.1%, oil production by 6.2%, and gas production by 7.2%.

Prices for consumer goods rose an average of 7.2 times, while salaries in the republic increased only 4.4 times.

Meat prices jumped to 12 times their previous level, sausage 13 times, fabric 14 times and furniture prices skyrocketed to 20 times their previous price.

International Affairs

Morozov Cited on U.S. Visit, Nuclear Arms

LD2204215292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1950 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolay Zaika—TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 22 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Ukraine is ready to implement all commitments under the agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive arms and to adhere to the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, Konstantin Morozov, minister of defense of the republic, stated. He held a news conference today on the results of the visit by a Ukrainian military delegation to the United States.

The defense minister stated that while the process of the limitation of strategic offensive arms is being implemented, Ukraine insists upon having the status of an equal side. As far as tactical nuclear weapons are concerned, international monitoring [kontrol] of their withdrawal, stockpiling, and destruction is necessary, the minister noted.

The delegation met Secretary of State James Baker, Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, and other U.S. political and military leaders during its visit to the United States. Questions of mutual relations between the two countries in the military and other spheres were discussed. The delegation put forward Ukraine's position on the main problems of the military and political situation in the republic and familiarized the American side with the republic's defense policy and military doctrines. The economic situation in Ukraine was also outlined. The military delegation affirmed once again that the republic excludes the use of force in deciding any political, economic and other questions.

The minister of defense also briefed the news conference on the conclusion of an agreement between the military departments of Ukraine and Hungary. A Ministry of Defense delegation of the republic is presently in Czechoslovakia, where a similar agreement is due to be signed. Drafts of such agreements with Bulgaria, Poland, and Romania are being examined. These countries, Konstantin Morozov stressed, link their security with Ukraine's independence.

The work of the delegation affirmed, Konstantin Morozov noted in conclusion, that Ukraine is open to mutual relations with other states, including ties with their armed forces.

Western Pressure To Withdraw Arms Denied

LD2204222992 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in English 2100 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine, Volodymyr (?Balashov), refuted rumors which have recently appeared to the effect that our republic reviewed

the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons to Russia allegedly under the pressure of foreign forces.

Volodymyr (?Balashov) declared that there has been no such pressure either on the part of Western countries or any other states.

An agreement has been recently attained on the international control over the withdrawal and scrapping of such weapons. Envisaged has been in part the presence of military experts from Ukraine on each of the sites where nuclear warheads will be eliminated, and also control over each of the numbers of weapons.

Volodymyr (?Balashov) pointed out that Ukraine is satisfied with such controls and there are no obstacles now for the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons from the territory of Ukraine.

Assembly Leader Confirms Fighting in Dniester

LD2204224392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in English 2100 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] One of the leaders of the Ukrainian National Assembly, Dmytro (?Korchynskyy), has confirmed the report by REUTERS NEWS AGENCY about the participation of a small group of members of the Ukrainian National Self-Defense in the armed conflict in the Dniester region.

(word indistinct) this militarized organization is acting as part of the National Assembly.

In his interview for a correspondent of TV and radio news agency 'NOVINY' Dmytro (?Korchynskyy) refused to give an exact number of the Ukrainian volunteers in the Dniester region. He only said they support the authorities of the Dniester region and did not receive any (word indistinct) (?award) for their mission.

Business Cooperation Sought With Arab Countries

AU2304092292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1345 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Ukraine figures on the list of former Soviet republics to which Saudi Arabia has decided to extend financial assistance. According to REUTER, the total sum of loans for them amounts to \$1,250,000,000.

Lately, Ukraine has been actively exploring possibilities of direct business cooperation with Near Eastern countries. Well informed sources close to the republic's government report that its representatives are presently holding negotiations with the United Arab Emirates on the possibility of transporting oil to Ukraine.

National Affairs

Law on Division of Powers With Crimea Adopted

LD2204220492 Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Russian 1816 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondnet Aleksandr Litvinov]

[Text] Kiev, 22 Apr—The Republic of Crimea is an autonomous part of Ukraine and solves the issues that fall within its competence independently, states the first article of the draft law on division of powers between Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea, which was adopted today in the first reading by the Ukrainian parliament. The draft of this law was previously approved by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Crimea. The document envisages that The territory of the republic cannot be changed or handed over by Ukraine to be part of another state or administrative-territorial formation without agreement to this by the people of the Republic of Crimea. Within the framework of its powers, the republic independently forms relations with other states and international organizations in the spheres of economy, protection of the environment, and the socio-cultural sphere. Ukraine, according to the draft law, acts as a guarantor of state sovereignty of the Republic of Crimea within the framework of coordinated powers. Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea recognize and guarantee the rights of the Crimean-Tatar people as well as the rights of people of all nationalities residing on the peninsula.

Details on Crimean Agreement

LD2304012992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] A draft law on the demarcation of powers with the Republic of Crimea was given its first reading at this evening session's of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. It had earlier been approved by the Crimean Supreme Soviet. Viktor Alekseyev reports.

[Alekseyev] As is known, the Crimea is being given broad self-government, including the opportunity for independent foreign relations within the limits of its authority, approval of the head of the republic's security service, recruitment of regional National Guard units predominantly from Crimean citizens, and even the right to suspend Ukrainian laws. What is effectively involved is the creation of a state within a state.

The expected turbulent debate at the Ukrainian parliament did not happen. After a report by Deputy Albert Korneyev and a speech by Crimean Supreme Soviet Chairman Nikolay Bagrov, several deputies known for their commitment to the idea of Ukrainian separatism asked the Crimean leader a number of pointed questions. The sense of what they said was that they did not accept what they see as excessive rights being given to a republic that is within Ukraine. Replying to a question on payment for water and coal supplies from Ukraine,

Nikolay Bagrov said it was the sole point on which agreement had not been reached. Bagrov gave an evasive reply to a question about the possibility of holding a referendum. By all accounts, the Crimea does not intend to tie itself to specific obligations.

One highlight was a statement by a presidential adviser made in conversation with Bagrov regarding the possibility of introducing direct presidential rule in the Crimea should there be an affirmative decision on holding a referendum. Leonid Kravchuk said that everything he wanted to tell Crimeans was in his statement. No one had the right to speak on his behalf. Kravchuk said he would not accept a referendum whatever form it took. Using his authority and relying on the support of a team of deputies, the president said the treaty should be ratified.

The Supreme Soviet approved the draft law without discussion at its first reading by the majority prescribed in the Constitution—305 votes in favor. The comparative ease with which the Ukrainian parliament agreed to broad self-government for the Crimea was the result of an understanding of the complete impossibility of standing up to the centrifugal tendencies on the peninsula.

Crimean Campaign for Referendum Criticized

AU2204153092 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Our Crimean correspondent Anatoliy Polonskyi will tell us through direct connection about the situation in the Crimea that has forced the Ukrainian president to issue his extremely important appeal. Anatoliy, do you hear us?

[Polonskyi] Yes, I hear you. Greetings to you, our esteemed compatriots living abroad. The situation in the Crimea has gone too far in its sovereignization [suvereni-zatsiya]. I would like to hope that the people's deputies, representatives of various political forces, and, of course, simple citizens of the Crimea will heed the Ukrainian president's appeal that our listeners have probably heard. This applies to those who have put their signatures on the demand to hold the referendum and to those who see other ways of resolving the Crimean problem. Time has come for all of us to forget our ambitions, grievances, and differences, to stop and think: Where is the Crimea going, after all? It has come very close to that border beyond which everything is unpredictable and dangerous.

Nikolay Bagrov, chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council, repeatedly stressed that a referendum is an extremely sharp weapon. It may only be used in extreme and exceptional cases. Could it be that Crimea finds itself confronted by this case? Could it be that this variant is the only way left for the Crimean politicians, when such a sharp weapon as a referendum must be utilized?

The recent events should have taught politicians something. I am not even referring to Karabakh and the Dniester Region. Two weeks ago, an explosive situation already took shape in the Crimea, in Sevastopol, where unprecedented passions flared up around the Black Sea Fleet. The timely intervention on the part of the presidents of Ukraine and Russia halted the further development of the dangerous events. This indicates that a sensible decision, a decision that would suit different sides, can be found. It must be sought.

On 5 May, the session of the Crimean Supreme Council will discuss the question of the referendum. Of course, its initiators, representatives of the Republican Movement of the Crimea, will demand that the date for holding this political action be specified. The very preparation for the referendum has divided the Crimeans into groups and has polarized them. What will prevail at the session—reason or ambitions?

Today, one ponders over and over: Who needs this referendum, after all? Who needs the independence of the Crimea from Ukraine? Is it really the will of the people who reside on the peninsula, as representatives of the so-called popular opposition like to claim? Indeed, they have collected about 250,000 signatures over two months. This seems to be a lot. However, why then did the rally dedicated to the results of collecting signatures only gathered 1,500 persons in the central square of Simferopol? The rally had been advertised so extensively by the local newspapers and radio, and so much had been said about it! It was Sunday and a nice sunny day. The people went to gardens and to their plots of land in the country or watched a popular TV film.

It occurred to me: How can it be that these 1,500 defenders and activists of the Crimean Republican Movement are those people who need independence so much? I know many of these people by sight. They are fond of discussing problems of current policy, of holding rallies, and of picketing in the square in front of the Supreme Council building. The majority of the people do not care. They have families, jobs, and lots of other things to take care of. If these people had not been so insistently brainwashed by members of the initiative groups (incidentally, they came to my apartment three times), then there would have been much less signatures in favor of the referendum.

In any case, the lists with signatures reflect the will of only one part of Crimeans and not that of the entire population. Whatever one might say, the idea of the referendum is artificial and far-fetched. Those who want power have decided to take advantage of it. The position of the republic's present leaders is not clear. One cannot help wondering: How can they fail to see and realize the absurdity and groundlessness of the idea of independence? Today, the Crimea is devoid of all possibilities to support this idea by material means. It is doubtful whether it will have these possibilities in the future.

There are no commodities, resources, or capital, and it is therefore necessary to try and acquire at least reason and common sense.

In his statement, the president of Ukraine calls upon the Crimeans to show wisdom, self-restraint, and high civil concern about the future of their country. The main thing today is to maintain peace and calm in the Crimea. No independence is worth sacrificing them.

Kravchuk Visits Army; Discusses Recruitment

*OW2204214492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1720 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk has taken a working trip to Zolotonosky District in Cherkassy Region which was over by Monday [20 April] night during which he visited an army division, one of the first to take an oath of allegiance to Ukraine.

In his conversations with servicemen the president paid special attention to their social security. He was given detailed information about the material status of the servicemen, their food, clothing, etc.

Kravchuk emphasized that the armed forces of independent Ukraine which were in the making would only be charged with defending its sovereignty. He confirmed his view that the Ukrainian forces should be formed on the citizenship, not on the nationality, principle. Ukraine, he said, would be grateful for good service to anyone, no matter what his national descent was.

Zolotonosky District is regarded as the best black-earth part of Ukraine. Farmers assured the President that sowing was going well. In his conversations with farmers, he confirmed his belief in the pluralism of ownership forms, which, in his opinion, should lead the Ukrainian countryside to prosperity.

New Committee To Promote Creation of Navy

*AU2304091292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1345 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Text] There is so far no headquarters of the Ukrainian navy; nor does anyone know when it will begin to be created. This was stated by Volodymyr Koshcheyev, representative of the Black Sea Fleet press center, in an interview to our correspondent. He said that at present only an organizational group of officers has been created, a group that may eventually, after a corresponding decision on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet is adopted at the top level, be in charge of forming such a headquarters. At the same time, Volodymyr Koshcheyev said that the command of the naval base in Sevastopol receives many applications from officers who request that their desire to serve in the Ukrainian fleet be taken into account.

However, Volodymyr Koshcheyev stressed, it does not in any way follow from this that the agreement between the presidents of Ukraine and Russia with regard to the Black Sea Fleet is being violated. Most of its personnel are waiting for a political solution on the status of this fleet of the former Soviet Union.

On 21 April, a public committee for promoting the creation of the Ukrainian navy was created at a constituent meeting in Kiev. The committee's objective is to draw the attention of the general public to problems of forming the Ukrainian navy, to promote the transfer of naval officers who are Ukraine's citizens to their motherland for the continuation of military service, and to resolve social questions that emerge in this connection. The committee believes that Sevastopol must be the main base of the Ukrainian Fleet.

According to Lieutenant General Volodymyr Khrustyt'sky, one of the initiators of the constituent meeting, the idea of creating such a committee has been supported by Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council.

National Guard Seeks More Warrant Officers

*AU2104141992 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY
in Ukrainian 8 Apr 92 p 1*

[Interview with V.S. Spysarenko, senior officer of the Personnel Administration of Ukraine's National Guard: "Ukraine's National Guard Needs Warrant Officers"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] **The Ukrainian National Guard—the first armed organ of our independent state—continues to be brought up to strength.** V.S. Spysarenko, senior officer of the Administration for Personnel of Ukraine's National Guard tells us about this issue.

[Spysarenko] Ukraine's National Guard currently has vacancies for warrant officers that are being filled on a competitive basis. Persons who are enlisted in the National Guard (predominantly men aged up to 30) must conform to all requirements of the Regulations on the Procedure for Bringing Ukraine's National Guard up to Strength. Individual positions may be occupied by women. Those who have successfully passed the competition and serve in Ukraine's National Guard are given the ranks of warrant officer of the guard and senior warrant officer of the guard.

The positions of warrant officers are filled by those sergeants and sergeant majors who are currently in active compulsory service in accordance with a contract signed upon finishing warrant officers or technical schools. Those soldiers, sergeants, and sergeant majors who have a higher or secondary education related to the type of military specialization and who have already served at least one year of the compulsory active military service after call up may also take part in the competition. Soldiers, sergeants, and sergeant majors of the reserve who have a higher or secondary education related to the

military specialization may become warrant officers; this also applies to warrant officers of the reserve and to women with a corresponding special education who have a higher or secondary education.

[MOLOD UKRAYINY] What rights and benefits are being given to warrant officers of Ukraine's National Guard?

[Spysarenko] Warrant officers and members of their families have the right to obtain medical attention in medical institutions of Ukraine's National Guard and in other military medical institutions, as well as sanatorium and health resort treatment and rest in sanatoriums and rest homes. Those who have served up to 10 years are entitled to annual leave of 30 days, from 10 to 20 years—35 days, from 20 to 25 years—40 days, and over 25 years—45 days. In accordance with specified norms, the warrant officers are provided with sets of foodstuffs or their worth in money. Incidentally, Ukraine's law "On the Social and Legal Protection of Servicemen and Their Families" applies in full to warrant officers.

Therefore, those who want to serve in Ukraine's National Guard should turn to the following addresses: Kiev, Prytyski-Mykilska, 5; Lvov, Stryyska, 146; Kharkiv, Prospekt 50-richchya VLKSM, 25; Donetsk, Naftova, 23; Odessa, Promyslova, 22.

First Quarter Shows Drop in Production, Income

*OW2204234292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1928 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[From "Interfax Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Reviewing results from the first quarter of 1992, the Ukrainian Ministry of Statistics reported that national income declined by 20% and production fell by 15.3% in comparison with the first quarter of 1991.

The ministry said that the production decline is affecting most important sectors of the economy. Nevertheless, the rate of decline in production has slowed as of late; in January the decline rate was 19.7%, while in March it had been reduced to 9.2%.

Experts believe that this is another indicator that economic development is stabilizing.

Party Chairman Views Vienna Roundtable, Tasks

*AU2204122292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 21 Apr 92*

[Interview with Levko Lukyanenko, Ukraine people's deputy and chairman of Ukraine Republican Party, by Natalya (?Chanhli); place and date not given]

[Text] Between 13 and 15 April, a European roundtable discussion was held in Vienna. The Ukrainian delegation was headed by Levko Lukyanenko, Ukraine people's deputy and chairman of the Ukrainian Republican Party. After

Levko Lukyanenko returned home, our correspondent Natalya (?Chanhli) met with him and asked him to share with her his thoughts and impressions.

[Chanhli] It seems that at present, round-shaped furniture has become fashionable in politics. This also applies to Vienna. The third European roundtable discussion was held and you took part in it. What are your impressions?

[Lukyanenko] I want to say that my impressions are very good. This time, Ukraine was represented by a separate delegation and this happened for the first time in history. The first roundtable discussion was held in 1990, the second in 1991, and the third—in 1992. Ukraine was represented in it for the first time.

[Chanhli] What questions were discussed there?

[Lukyanenko] Three important questions. The first question was on the political situation in the countries of the former empires—the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, the situation of the nations and ethnic groups, and the situation in the sphere of human rights in the newly created states.

The second theme concerned economic problems. I dealt, in particular, with the creation of the common European economic space, with problems of economic reform in the new states, and with their integration within the European economic space, that is to say, with their cooperation with Western powers in the restoration of the economy.

The third theme dealt with military problems. Here questions of the division of weapons and armies of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia were discussed, in particular, the problem of the creation of the Ukrainian National Army, the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, and the problems of nuclear weapons—reduction of them and the position of Ukraine with regard to this question.

On the first two questions, I spoke in the discussions, and my speeches were met with interest. News conferences were then organized with the participation of many journalists, and they continued for a long time. I had an opportunity to expound on the position of Ukraine, our problems, relations with our neighbors, and our democratic and independence-related ideals.

With regard to the third theme, I delivered a supplementary report, and in this supplementary report, I also outlined the main problems of building the Ukrainian Armed Forces and those obstacles with which we are confronted. I proposed that the resolution include a paragraph to the effect that Western states that already have democratic principles must also be obliged to take all measures in order to expand democratic principles in the world as much as possible. This was taken into account, and the resolution includes this.

[Chanhli] In what way can this expansion be achieved?

[Lukyanenko] By propagandizing democratic ideals on a wider scale, by promoting the strengthening of democratic institutions in those states that have recently been created, including Ukraine, and in many other ways. For example, it is possible to condemn those countries that use weapons, instead of discussions; I have in mind Russia. Instead of using civilized ways of resolving problems between Ukraine and Russia, Russia resorts to coercion, to force, and so on. Now, for example, Russia does not want to divide the Black Sea Fleet, although all of it should, as a matter of fact, belong to Ukraine. However, in practice, they do not want to give us anything at all, because, taking advantage of physical strength, they thereby do not act in accordance with justice or in accordance with a democratic approach to resolving all questions. Here, Western states can do much by way of rendering diplomatic and political support to Ukraine, even through art, and so on.

Problems of Test Site Viewed; Appeal Adopted

AU2204171792 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU
in Ukrainian 2 Apr 92 p 3

[Commentary by Myroslav Paranchak: "What Will Be the Fate of the Test Site?"]

[Text] The Lvov Oblast Peace Council, the Ecological Commission, and the Peace Fund have organized a "roundtable" conference involving representatives of organs of power, public organizations, first and foremost, Rukh [Ukraine's People's Movement for Perestroika], and military specialists to discuss the problems of the Yavorivskyy military test site.

Information based on archival documents and reliable historical facts has been submitted. The actions carried out by the command of the Kiev Special Military District in 1939-41 and by the Carpathian Military District, jointly with the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, during the postwar years on the territory of the present test site amount to 500,000 crimes. Without coordination with organs of local power, wide-scale deportation that involved undeniable violations of human rights, was practiced. It affected 150,000 citizens. Fifty-four villages were destroyed, 300,000 homes burned down, 20,000 memorials, and eight churches and cemeteries, as well as schools reduced to debris. The present villages of Kunyn, Mokrotyn, Krekhiv, the settlement of Maheriv, and others were also damaged. In this way, more than 40,000 hectares of land were "prepared" for the needs of the Soviet Army. This was done with particular cynicism and cannot be justified by anything, because a part of the unique Roztochchya zone was reduced to a desert, a territory on which an original culture and way of life had prevailed for centuries.

During military training in which troops of the Warsaw Pact countries also participated, the central zone of the test site was destroyed to such an extent that it cannot now be used for any national economic purposes. The uncontrolled felling of trees and the contamination of

rivers and soil repeatedly gave rise to spontaneous protests on the part of local residents. However, that was the epoch in which Moscow generals had the last say.

Only now has it become possible to give an objective assessment of the test site's history and reach an optimal compromise with regard to its fate. Nobody denies the fact that now the Ukrainian Army will need such facilities. However, the majority of specialists believe that a part of the forest, in particular 11,000 hectares of it, may be given to the "Roztochchya" national park for the needs of the national economy and for building health

resorts. Military specialists of the Ciscarpathian Military District cannot, as yet, take a distinct stand on this question, because it is not known how the processes of building the Ukrainian Army will develop and what units will be stationed in Lvov Oblast. Nor can we ignore the demands of the deported people who demand material and moral compensation.

The participants in the conference appealed to Ukraine's president, minister of defense, and minister of environmental protection with a demand to consider the problems of the Yavorivskyy test site at a government level.

Byelorussia

Kozlovskiy Appointed New Defense Minister

LD2204130392 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service*
in Russian 1246 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Minsk, 22 Apr (BELTA-TASS)—Lieutenant General Pavel Kozlovskiy was appointed defense minister of the Republic of Byelorussia today. Before this appointment, he was first deputy commander, chief of staff of the Byelorussia Military District.

Outlines Armed Forces Plans

LD2204205692 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service*
in Russian 1640 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By unidentified BELTA correspondent for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 22 April (ITAR-TASS)— One of the priority tasks of the Byelorussia Defense Ministry is the creation of its own military doctrine. This was revealed in an interview with Lieutenant General Pavel Kozlovskiy by BELTA correspondents. He was confirmed today by the Byelorussia Parliament as the leader of the republic's military department. According to him, this doctrine should reflect the idea of creating a sovereign, neutral, and nuclear-free state.

The general thinks that in the existing political and economic conditions the most appropriate thing to speak about is the creation of a group of land forces in Byelorussia with a total strength of some 40,000 servicemen. The forces of the Byelorussia Military District will be the basis for this. Airborne and assault formations and units will play an important role in the structure of the republic's armed forces. The minister sees the strategic forces in the republic's territory taking the form of a separate group of 35,000-40,000 servicemen.

Government Resolution on Spring Draft Published

PM2104113192 Moscow *KRASNAYA ZVEZDA*
in Russian 16 Apr 92 p 3

[Colonel V. Kovalev report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Specific Features of Spring Draft in Byelorussia"]

[Text] Minsk, 15 Apr—Since the end of March the correspondents' center has received a constant stream of telephone calls asking the same question: "Why does Byelorussia not announce the discharge of sergeants and men and the draft of citizens for military service?" That question is redundant now, it seems. Byelorussian newspapers have published a Republic of Byelorussia Council of Ministers resolution announcing that fixed-term servicemen who have served their allotted period will be discharged between April and June and that the draft will be carried out.

Essentially, this will be a draft into a national army whose creation began officially on 20 March. The resolution does not mention the Joint Armed Forces or the

Strategic Forces of the CIS, and Byelorussian servicemen will serve on the republic's territory alone. As reported at the republic's military commissariat, those new recruits who are sent for specialist military training at training centers and units outside Byelorussia must return to their own state after training.

One characteristic of the draft is that draftees permanently employed in agriculture are scheduled to be sent to military units after 1 June. It is also envisaged that young men affected by the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear power station disaster will serve in units not connected with nuclear installations or other sources of ionizing radiation or with components of rocket fuel.

Free Market 'Destroying' Byelorussian Industry

PM2204101492 Moscow *PRAVDA* in Russian
14 Apr 92 p 1

[PRAVDA correspondent Oleg Stepanenko report under the "View From the Capitals" rubric: "Minsk Left Without Working Capital. Byelorussia, Which Resisted Market Forces Last Year and Did Not Cut Production Volumes, Affected by Destructive Blows of Reform Begun in Russia"]

[Text] The free market, the principles of which have been put into practice under pressure from "democrat" reformers, is literally destroying industry.

"Since the beginning of the year the volume of production at a number of enterprises in the machine building, chemical, petrochemical, food, and other industries has dropped by 21.6 billion rubles," V. Nichiporovich, chairman of the Byelorussia State Committee for Statistics, commented.

Market anarchy and uncontrolled forces are destroying ties between enterprises, each of which is trying to bring its partners to their knees for the sake of profit. Machine building and processing plants and factories at the end of the production chain have ended up in the most critical situation. They form the basis of Byelorussian industry.

Now there is the latest blow from the free market. Dozens of Byelorussian plants and factories have been left without working capital. The point is that it is necessary to pay in advance for raw materials and spare parts, the price of which has risen many times, and what is more the collective has to be paid wages for producing the output.

Moldova

Forces Shell Dubossary, Bendery Traffic Resumes

LD2204105992 Moscow *Radio Rossii Network*
in Russian 1000 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] According to Vladimir Kharchenko, deputy chairman of the Bendery town soviet, roads leading in all directions have been unblocked by bipartite groups of

deputies of Moldova and the Dniester region, joined by police, militia and 14th Army representatives. Gennadiy Varfolomeyev reports.

[Varfolomeyev] Normal road traffic has been restored to Chisinau and Kaushany. Police, militia officials and deputies groups remain at checkpoints. Armed formations of Dniester home guards and Moldovan volunteers have been disarmed and withdrawn. The night passed calmly in Bendery, while the situation in Dubossary remains tense. The Dubossary dam and the guards' positions have been shelled by all kinds of weapons, including artillery. Firing continued throughout the night and into the morning. Dubossary Town Soviet Chairman Vladislav Finagin told me that this is the first time Dubossary was subjected to such intense shelling. The town literally shook from the shelling. Several private houses have been destroyed. People have been wounded.

In Bendery, one of the hotspots of the Dniester region, opposing sides have found it possible to stop firing and to draw back their formations. This experience with conflict resolution must be used in all areas of confrontation, above all in Dubossary.

Interior Ministry Reports Injuries, Arrests

AU2204121292 Bucharest Radio Romania Network
in Romanian 1000 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Gabriel Ionescu report from Chisinau]

[Text] This morning the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Moldova announced that relative calm prevailed yesterday and last night in the Moldovan rayons on the left bank of the Dniester River.

In accordance with the accords concluded, the armed formations in the town of Tighina and its environs yesterday began to withdraw and to return their weapons. At the same time, operations to unblock roads are under way and defusing operations have begun.

Despite this, yesterday the cease-fire accord was violated innumerable times in other places in the conflict area, the Ministry of Interior Press Bureau specifies. Beginning at 1730, the positions defended by the police of the Republic of Moldova near the Dubossary hydroelectric power station were under fire for two hours. At 2000, the separatist forces in the village of Roghi opened fire against the village of Cocieri, which is located north of Dubossary.

The positions held by the policemen in the village of Gura Bicului were also under fire from the direction of the village of Bicioc at 2100. During the attacks, mine throwers, large caliber machine guns, and Alazan-type rockets were used. There were victims among the ranks of the civilian population. After these attacks, a woman residing in the village of Dorotskoye and the deputy

mayor of the village of Cocieri were injured. Two villagers from Dorotskoye stepped on a mine and were seriously injured and urgently hospitalized.

The Ministry of Interior of Moldova added that the police in Criuleni Rayon arrested a resident from Ribnita who had an automatic gun on him, as well as seven cartridge magazines and four grenades. These weapons had been received three days before in the village of Roghi, Dubossary Rayon, when that person was enrolling in the guard of the so-called Dniester Republic.

In accordance with news received from the Donets in the Ukraine, the militia detained two residents from the city of Rostov-on-Don, in the Russian Federation, who had on them six Kalashnikov-type automatic weapons, 871 cartridges of 5.45 millimeter caliber, as well as 23 F-1 type grenades. As the detained people confessed, these weapons had been obtained in the Republic of Moldova in the village of Cosnita between 14 and 20 March this year when they participated in military operations within the Cossack formations, the aforementioned source added.

Dniester Region Situation Examined

OW2204220492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1719 GMT 22 Apr 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The conflict in the Dniester region can hardly be settled before the region is given some kind of autonomy.

Moldova's demand that Russia withdraw its 14th army from the region can make the army give up its neutral stance, for its officers are sure to dislike the prospect of moving, for they would then lose their accommodation, may be forced to leave the service, and would face a pretty vague future in general. Many of them therefore approve of the intention of the Dniester Republic to form its own army about 12,000 strong.

If Russia agrees to remove the 14th army, a considerable proportion of its officers may leave it and go to serve in the Dniester army. This could mean that the more Moldova insisted on the withdrawal of the 14th army the sooner the Dniester Republic would have its own army.

At the same time, the longer Moldova delays the solution of the Dniester problem the more it will aggravate its social and economic situation. The Moldovan government cannot form any realistic budget, for the Dniester region has for more than a year been pursuing its own economic policy and has been making no contributions to the Moldovan budget.

While in Moldova during the first quarter of this year the industrial decline reached nearly 27% against last year, the Dniester region remains economically stable. The leadership of the Dniester region refused to implement a recent decree by the Moldovan president on price hikes

for basic goods. As a result, a gap emerged between the subsistence levels on the two banks of the Dniester region.

Already in the near future the Moldovan government may face "the rising strike movement which is still being contained thanks to skillful political maneuvering of the Independent Trade Unions Federation".

Observers note that the domestic political opposition in Moldova is taking advantage of the Dniester conflict and the economic decline for stirring up pro-Romanian sentiments among the local population. Accusing Russia, and lately Ukraine, of unleashing aggression against Moldova, supporters of an immediate unification with Romania launched a propagandistic campaign based on the principle that the Moldovan people can be protected from Russian imperialism and falling standards of living only being part of the unified great Romania. Thus, the adherence to gaining Moldova's full independence declared by the Moldovan leadership is taking a serious exam.

Number of Refugees From Dniester Increasing

AU2104190092 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
1803 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/4/1992—The number of people fleeing the left bank of the Dniester River has grown to 12,857, of which 8,420 are children, the chairman of the Governmental Commission for Refugees of the Republic of Moldova, Mihai Platon, told MOLDOVA-PRES.

Another 165 people abandoned their homes in the districts of Dubossary and Grigoriopol and in the city of Tighina over the past 48 hours.

Minister Wants Membership in Black Sea Conference

AU2204190992 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
1744 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 22/4/1992—It is not fair from an ecological or international law point of view that the Republic of Moldova take part in a conference on the protection of the Black Sea as an observer, the Moldovan minister of the environment, Ion Dediu told ROMPRES on 22 April.

He specified that a recent Bucharest conference on the protection of the Black Sea against pollution had given his country observer status even though "we too pollute the Black Sea through the Dniester and the Danube, and should therefore share the problems with the countries on its rim."

The Moldovan minister's statement is backed by the Romanian minister of the environment who supports Moldova's bid for full membership of the convention.

On Romanian-Moldovan cooperation in the environment, Mr. Dediu said that, just like in other areas of the economy, the two sides pursued a gradual integration

through the formation of similar organisms, the making of similar laws, and joint ecological management.

Aviation Unit 'Privatized' by Moldovan Government

PM2204142492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
17 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Eduard Kondratov and Viktor Litovkin under the general heading: "Moldova Now Has MiGs, But It Would Like Helicopters"]

[Text] A report that Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, has donated a Black Sea Fleet aviation regiment to Moldova has been greeted as a sensation in the mass media.

"I can see absolutely nothing sensational about the transfer to Moldova of the 86th Aviation Regiment of MiGs," Lieutenant General I. Kostash, Moldovan defense minister, said. "Two other regiments from the same 119th Fighter Aviation Division have sworn an oath to Ukraine. Everything is being done on the basis of the joint decisions that were made earlier by the heads of the CIS.

"We do not intend to eliminate the regiment, there is a special decision by the Moldovan president about keeping it as a line unit. I think there will be enough airmen, too. Native Moldovan servicemen who want to return home to serve in the national army include military airmen who fly MiGs. The fact that we may not need so many jet fighters is another matter entirely. We are therefore studying the possibility of exchanging a certain number of MiGs for combat helicopters, for example. I think that this is in the order of things—we are creating the sort of army that we need.

"There is one thing I want to say with complete certainty," the minister stressed, "the national army has no intention of interfering in the Dniester region conflict whether it has aircraft or not. Imposing order on the republic's territory is the business of the law enforcement organs, not the military."

Our correspondent in Chisinau got in touch by telephone with Colonel I. Rotaru, who took command of the 86th Aviation Regiment a week ago, and asked him whether it was true that all 48 airmen had refused to take an oath of loyalty to Moldova and there is simply nobody to fly the MiGs.

The commander answered with a laugh that this is more a half-truth than the truth. According to him, the regiment's personnel was disinforming by contradictory rumors. And naturally, they were alarmed about their future. The atmosphere in the unit is now fine. Some of the officers have handed in applications, and the order to transfer them has already been received. But not all of them are leaving: Military airmen who have decided to serve in the Moldovan armed forces will be summoned to take the oath in the near future.

IZVESTIYA's military observer was informed in the Navy aviation headquarters in Moscow that the regiment has not been "transferred" to Moldova but "privatized" by its government. The Moldovan Government has not permitted hardware to be removed beyond the Dniester, and ground equipment will also stay put, therefore there can be no question of "gifts" of any kind. Another factor is that the Joint Armed Forces leadership did not want to move toward yet another conflict...

Russia too does not possess the number of helicopters that the Moldovans have requested in exchange for a few MiGs. So the matter of what to do with the privatized but nonflying hardware is an internal state affair.

All airmen who refused to take the Moldovan oath, our observer was assured, have been found places in Russia.

Kyrgyzstan

Dependence on Russia, Foreign Relations Viewed

PM2204111492 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 17 Apr 92 p 1

[K. Bayalinov report: "Asia Thinks... The Former Soviet Republics Search For a New 'Big Brother'"]

[Text] Bishkek—The president of Kyrgyzstan has arrived from Bonn. This was his fourth foreign trip this month. Such a hectic schedule of visits is explained by the fact that Kyrgyzstan, which was left (after Russia washed its hands of the problems of the former Soviet East) to deal with its affairs by itself, is looking for partners beyond its customary geopolitical sphere.

The republic was somewhat disappointed by its "big brother" last time round, when last year in Bishkek B. Yeltsin promised the people of Kyrgyzstan an 800-million [currency not specified] loan. There has been no loan so far, but the promise is remembered in Kyrgyzstan. However, it is not a question of money. The civilized countries can give (and are giving!) far more on the strength of Akayev.

Nevertheless, Kyrgyzstan remains perhaps the last of the states of post-Soviet Asia to still support (most likely through inertia) Russia and its leader and reforms. The rest, it would appear, have chosen their own path. In the new geopolitical orientation Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan view Russia only as a large and unpredictable neighbor. Tajikistan is refraining from comment, probably fully aware of the acuteness of its economic dependency on the former mother country. At the same time, the orientation of this non-Turkic Central Asian republic is noticeably shifting southward, to the ethnically related Iran and Afghanistan.

To be fair, it should be noted that Moscow is trying to correct its mistake. A visit to Central Asia is envisaged in the work schedule of the Russian foreign minister. Though local commentators believe that the tour is unlikely to bring the desired results. Incidentally, last time, Kozyrev was unable to get to Bishkek: President Akayev was in the FRG, and would not break off his visit. And most interestingly, the new date of Kozyrev's visit could coincide with the arrival of Turkish premier S. Demirel. In that event, the prospective talks with Russia could be overshadowed by the meeting of the leaders of the two Turkish states.

The attitude of the Central Asian states to Russia is primarily determined by their degree of economic development, and secondly by their model of political regime. Cotton gives Uzbekistan access to the external market, while raw material resources ensure its independence from Russian imports. Turkmenistan, at one time forgotten by the center (it avoided many of the conflicts of Gorbachev's perestroika, incidentally), is literally swimming in a sea of oil and natural gas.

Allah cheated Kyrgyzstan of its share of oil and gas. Its complete raw material and financial dependence on Russia and the uncertainty of the security of its borders push it into the arms of the Kremlin. However, warm embraces turn out upon inspection to be nothing more than an unsuccessful metaphor. The Kremlin, Moscow, and Russia, all the signs suggest, have no time for Kyrgyzstan, ally though it may be. Yeltsin is engaged in a showdown with Kravchuk, while Burbulis is opening a window onto Europe.

Great problems could arise tomorrow in the East, whose states could turn from political neutrality to a policy of confrontation with the new Russia. Then Russia will need its ally, whose heart may by then have been given to another.

Pragmatism is gradually gaining the upper hand. Judge for yourselves: It would appear that Russia, having "privatized" the former USSR Embassies, does not intend to share the space with its brothers in the once "united and indissoluble union." Turkey is offering Kyrgyzstan (and presumably the other states of Central Asia as well) the use of its foreign embassies.

A U.S. Embassy has opened in the center of Bishkek. The Turkish Embassy has picked up the best residential house, and a Chinese mission has opened. Russia, fearing to be last among the great states, has also signified its presence. A charge d'affaires of the Russian Embassy in Kyrgyzstan has appeared in Bishkek. Today he is tackling two main problems—looking for premises to serve as an office (the best buildings have already been taken) and preparing for the meeting involving his boss, the Russian Federation foreign minister.

President Announces Draft for National Guard

LD1804042892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 2100 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev has signed a decree on releasing from duty servicemen in active reserve units stationed in the republic, and has announced a draft from April to June 1992. According to the decree, the selection of personnel for the republican National Guard is to begin in Uzbekistan [as heard].

Tajikistan

Agreement Between Government, Opposition

LD2204160792 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe
Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 22 Apr 92

["Text" of agreement between representatives of the Supreme Soviet, the government of Tajikistan, and the leadership of the opposition rally in Martyr's Square in Dushanbe; issued 22 April]

[Text] The representatives of the Supreme Soviet of the Government of Tajikistan and the leadership of the protesters have reached an agreement that stipulates that

the session of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan will continue its work and will assess and resolve issues proposed by the protestors. The session will approve the resignation of Kendzhayev, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan; will nullify the Tajikistan law on arrangements for convening rallies, meetings and gatherings; will abolish amendments adopted at the 12th session of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan to Article 104 of the criminal code of the Republic of Tajikistan; will fix a date for elections to the new parliament; and will add five members to the Constitutional Commission from the political parties and organizations.

The president of Tajikistan will sign a decree that those who participated in rallies in Martyr's Square between 26 March and 24 April 1992 will not be prosecuted.

The Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan will establish a commission to investigate observance of the law during the arrest of Ikramov [former mayor of Dushanbe], and will hear, as soon as possible, the report of the commission investigating the activities of Navjavanov, the minister of internal affairs.

The regular session of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan will discuss the issue of changing the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast to the Badakhshan Autonomous Republic.

For its part, the leadership of the rally will undertake that following the resolution of these issues the protestors will vacate Martyr's Square by 24 April and will return to their homes.

It also adds that if the government and the Supreme Soviet observe the decisions and laws and if they follow the road to democracy and a correct and reasonable policy, the leadership of the political parties and organizations—the Democratic Party of Tajikistan, the Islamic Revival Party, and the Rastakhez and La'l-i Badakhshan organizations—will refrain from holding rallies and gatherings, except pre-election gatherings, until the election date for the new parliament.

Democratic Leader Cited on Islamic Revolution

*LD2004125592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1845 GMT 17 Apr 92*

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Dushanbe—The chairman of the Tajikistan Democratic Party does not rule out an Islamic revolution in the republic unless the Tajikistan parliamentary speaker resigns.

Chairman of the Tajikistan Democratic Party Shadman Yusupov told PF [POSTFACTUM] on April 17 that it will result in a civil war in Tajikistan which may bring the Islamic Revival Party to power. According to Yusupov, the Democratic Party and other parties with similar programs will find it harder with every passing day to advocate a Islamic way of development.

Shadman Yusupov further said that the opposition had accepted the conditions put forward by Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Safarli Kendzhayev that it refrain from picketing the parliament building during the session and abstain from any rallies and, on April 17, had withdrawn pickets from the building of the republican Cabinet of Ministers.

On April 17, republican mass media published a resolution of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet, calling a session, but Safarli Kendzhayev demanded guarantees that the rally would stop following the start of the session, irrespective of its results. Opposition leaders, however, do not agree to the agenda containing only one issue put forward by rally participants—the dissolution of the parliament. Their main demand is that the parliamentary speaker resign. If Kendzhayev is not dismissed, the brunt of responsibility for a further aggravation of the crisis will lie on the conscience of not only the deputies but also of the president himself, Yusupov believes. He, however, asserted that the opposition is going to pass through all phases of a political, peaceful pressure on the Supreme Soviet, which rules out the possibility of making a first step towards a physical and military confrontation.

President Rakhman Nabiyev and parliamentary speaker Safarli Kendzhayev are backed by the Tajikistan Republican Party numbering no more than 1,000 members and the republican Communist Party (roughly 200 persons). The authorities are opposed by the organizing committee for the Popular Unity Party of Tajikistan which, according to its chairman Otakhon Latifi [name as received], must unite representatives of the third estate, i.e. business people and intellectuals. The demands put forward at the rally are supported by most Dushanbe students, the official Moslem clergy, both Uzbek and Tajik, however, both inside the opposition and between the opposition and Supreme Kasi (religious post), member of the republican parliament Khodzhiy Akbar Turadzhonzoda opinions differ as to the parliament dissolution issue. The independent Kaziat of the Kulyab Region headed by Khodzhiy Khaidar Sharifzoda is in opposition to both the republican Kaziat and its head.

On April 17, the SADOY MARDUM (PEOPLE'S VOICE) newspaper published a statement by Kulyab Kaziat in support of the president, chairman of the Supreme Soviet and other republican leaders. The statement calls on rally participants to leave the square. However, Kulyab has also become a site for periodic rallies in support of the opposition's demands.

There are reports that the republican office of prosecutor has instituted proceedings against rally participants, each of them faces a prison term of up to 2 years, while their leaders may be jailed for as much as five years. Olga Muravleva, Oktyabrskiy district (Dushanbe) prosecutor, demands that the opposition compensate the damages inflicted to the Dushanbe trolleybus enterprise, amounting to R [ruble] 12,079.37, due to the blocking of Rudakiy and Somoniy Avenues and a resulting forced

stoppage of 611 trolleybuses. A bill has been also presented to the opposition for the power used by its microphone set up in the square from March 27 until April 15, the lighting of the square and tents (R5,888) and utilization of tableware and premises of the Rokhat Chaikhana (Tea Room) (also R5,888). The sanitary and epidemiological station of the Oktyabrskiy district (Dushanbe) warned rally participants of a danger of infectious diseases flaring up among them and city residents due to the lack of veterinary supervision over the state of meat and sanitary supervision over the food being cooked in the square. The sanitary and epidemiological station also drew their attention to the poor sanitary conditions in the tent camp. On April 17, the presidium of the Tajikistan Cabinet of Ministers addressed rally participants via the SADOY MARDUM newspaper published by the republican Supreme Soviet. The address mentioned a deep social and economic crisis in the republic and stressed that foreign partners fail to meet their commitments due to the unstable situation here. In the first quarter of 1992, the production volume decreased by 13.2 percent as compared with the same period of 1991, approximately 173 industrial enterprises failed to reach the 1991 production level, while 32 of them halved output. The address further says that, during the rally, the republic suffered losses amounting to R16,700 thousand [as received].

Republican mass media are publishing numerous addresses to work collectives urging upon them to stop rallies and start negotiations. According to PF information received from informed militia sources, during the rally, Chairman of the local National Security Committee Anatoliy Stroykin has repeatedly provided advice to the president and parliamentary speaker. Safarli Kendzhayev is also actively supported by Major General Anatoliy Martovitskiy, deputy commander of an operational group of the Central Asian Frontier District, and Supreme Soviet member, chairman of the Republican Defense Committee Major General Farukh Niyazov. Interior Minister Mamadayev Navzhuvanov is officially in a leave of absence but he goes to work every day and is in control of the situation.

Only two persons from the president's team, members of the Supreme Soviet, Minister of Water Projects and Irrigation Khikmatullo Nasreddinov [name as received] and chairman of the parliament's Mandate Commission, People's Actor of Tajikistan, Dzhurabek Murodov [name as received] insist on the necessity to start the dialogue with the opposition. Opposition leaders suppose that Safarli Kenjayev disposes sensational information on the genuine elections returns. However, Yusupov said that during one of the meetings opposition leaders assured President Nabiyev of their readiness to sign a protocol of support of the president and expressed willingness to cooperate with him even if the president has really got only 8 per cent of the votes and the corresponding information is not made public. Majority of mass media, including the State TV and Radio Company, the Supreme Soviet's newspaper SADOY MARDUM, the Communist daily GOLOS TAJIKISTANA,

former Communist newspaper NARODNAYA GAZETA, all Uzbek editions and papers published by Tajik parties, do not support the ralliers. Only the VECHERNY DUSHANBE daily remains neutral featuring daily reports about the rally.

According to some information, most Russian-speaking residents of Dushanbe (50 per cent) are cautious about the rally, 30 per cent refer to it negatively, 10 per cent are neutral and 10 per cent support the action. Most demands to stop the rally come from groups in the Leninabad region. The rally at Dushanbe's Shakhidon square has entered its 23rd day. On April 15 over 700 tents and yurts were situated on the square including the roadways of the Rudakiy and Ismoil Somoniy Avenues. The number of ralliers tends to change as most participants come from remote areas. At times the number of people at the square reached a maximum of 60,000. At present nearly 20,000 people stay at the square. The tents are set up by the geographic principle carrying the names of almost all of Tajikistan rural areas on them. A special charitable fund collects donations of ralliers' groups contributed by their fellow villagers. By now the fund has collected nearly R500,000. The republican Kaziat undertook active participation in the fund.

On April 14 and 15 three US senators visited Tajikistan. At their April 15 press-conference they expressed the concern with human rights in the republic and stated that the necessity to stop American aid to Tajikistan will be raised in the Senate. The senators met representatives of both the official authorities and the opposition.

Republic To Join Islamic Conference Organization

LD2204055892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0547 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By TIA-KHOVAR correspondent Galina Gridneva for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 22 Apr—Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev has expressed the republic's readiness to join the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. This is stated in a message to ICO Secretary General Hamid al-Ghabid.

Turkmenistan

Diplomatic Relations With Japan Established

LD2204101892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1002 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kopnov]

[Text] Tokyo, 22 Apr—Japan announced the establishment of diplomatic relations with Turkmenistan. As a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported, the ceremony of the exchange of the appropriate documents between the two countries took place in Moscow today. So far, Japan has established diplomatic relations with 12 of the 15 former republics of the

USSR. It does not yet have interstate relations with Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

Saudia Arabia May Fund Gas Pipeline

*PM2304100692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
20 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1*

[Vladimir Kuleshov report: "Turkmen Gas Will Reach Europe Via Turkey and Iran"]

[Text] Ashkhabad—It will cost more than \$2.5 billion to build merely the first phase of the gas pipeline linking Turkmenistan with Iran, Turkey, and Europe.

A sponsor has been found. During his recent visit to Saudi Arabia President S. Niyazov handed King Fahd a package of proposals for possible cooperation, particularly in the economic sphere—the construction of a gas pipeline, the development of the petrochemical and gas complex, and the creation of a powerful cotton processing base. King Fahd is prepared to support the development of the Turkmen economy. Saudi businessmen are expected to visit Ashkhabad in the next few days. Together with Turkmen specialists they will prepare a feasibility study for each project, after which the terms on which capital will be invested and each side's shareholding will be defined.

During his stay in Ashkhabad, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, Iranian petroleum minister, signed an intergovernmental agreement to allow Turkmen gas to cross Iran to Turkey and Europe. At a meeting with S. Niyazov, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i assured the Turkmen president that Iran is ready to be a contractor on the gas pipeline construction project.

"We are building a market. And gas is our state's main source of wealth," Nazar Suyunov, member of the Turkmen Presidential Council, said. "And the level of

our people's prosperity will depend on the tactics used to control it. In laying a gas pipeline to Turkey and Europe we have no intention of selling off our gas, albeit profitably. No, our aim is something else—to become involved in world economic structures with the help of a transcontinental gas pipeline. So far we are proposing to set up an international consortium for the construction of the gas pipeline. We will be announcing a competition and evaluating who will produce the best and cheapest plan for it. Then we will immediately embark on construction. We plan to bring the gas pipeline on stream by early 1994..."

Afghan Tribe, Fearing Reprisals, Seeks Asylum

*LD2104133192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0834 GMT 21 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Znamenskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 21—Some 200 people from the Afghan tribe Tekke, armed with two machineguns and 43 submachineguns, crossed into Turkmenistan on Monday [20 April] in the area of one of the posts of the Takhta-Bazar frontier guards unit.

ITAR-TASS learned at the press centre of the CIS frontier troops on Tuesday that Tekke people pitched tents five kilometres inside the Turkmenian territory and refused to return to Afghanistan. They await the authorities' decision about the possibility of their stay in Turkmenistan. Afghans said they had crossed the border for fear of reprisals by groups of Mujahidin.

The commissar of the frontier troops and a representative of leaders of opposition units controlling the northern zone of Afghanistan met on the same day in the area of the Tajik-Afghan border at the bridge across the River Pyandzh. The Afghan side stated that it will help create a calm atmosphere of the border and is interested in the preservation of check points on the border.

Armenia

Russia Accused of Moving Arms to Azerbaijan

OW2304070492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1742 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Armenian Supreme Council accused the Russian leadership of transferring arms and ammunition to Azerbaijan. The parliament's statement adopted Wednesday [22 April] notes that the Russian leadership's decision to transfer 25% of the Caspian Military Fleet's property to Azerbaijan "violates the principles of the CIS's formation". The statement points out that Russia had no the right to transfer the common property of CIS member states to Azerbaijan.

The parliament described such actions as "very dangerous, unfriendly and running contrary to the intergovernment agreement signed by Armenia and Russia last December". The statement says that Russia has virtually violated the CSCE's decision to ban the movement of arms and ammunition to armed conflict zones.

The Armenian parliament holds Russia responsible for the fact that arms and military equipment stolen within Azerbaijan or transferred to it are being used against civilians in Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia.

The statement expresses hope that future policy of the Russian leadership toward the region will not contradict with willingness to find a political solution to the Armenian-Azeri conflict, repeatedly stated by Russia. The document suggests that a meeting be immediately called with participation of representatives for the parliaments of Armenia, Russia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

More on Nagorno-Karabakh's Refusal on Talks

Letter Sent to Kozyrev

OW2204135492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1305 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Report by M. Mayorov, I. Porshnev, and others from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Stepanakert officials said they cannot accept the date suggested by Russia for a conference on settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh. They indicated conditions which, if met, could be conducive to success at such meetings. The initial plans provided for holding a conference on Karabakh in Mineralnye Vody on April 23-24.

In a letter to Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Georgiy Petrosyan, Acting Chairman of Nagorno-Karabakh's Supreme Council, said that the dates suggested by Russia don't suit the leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh, since on April 24 the Armenians commemorate the victims of the 1915 genocide that took place in Western Armenia.

The letter draws attention to the fact that the conflicting sides have not forwarded to Russia's Foreign Ministry yet all of their proposals relating to the possibility of ceasing fire. In view of the fact that ceasefire agreements "have been violated by the Azeris more than once", the leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh believe that conferences conducted through the mediation of Russia's Foreign Minister "are desirable only if there are preliminary agreements".

Besides, the leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh said they are convinced that such meetings could yield positive results only if the equal status of both conflicting sides is recognized: "One delegation of Nagorno-Karabakh and one delegation of Azerbaijan".

Iranian Proposal 'Preferable'

NC2204152992 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's [NKR] Supreme Soviet Press Center has reported that tension continued in Stepanakert last night. The city was shelled throughout the night from Shusha as 31 Grad fragmentation rockets were fired on the city. Additional destruction and injuries have been reported.

Gadрут was shelled throughout 21 April from Azerbaijan's Fizulinskiy Rayon. A few buildings were destroyed in the city and injuries have been reported.

Meanwhile, a large concentration of Azerbaijani National Army troops has been observed near Askeran and Martuni.

The Press Center also reported that the NKR leadership is currently discussing rejecting Russia's mediation role because the mediation conditions proposed by Iran are preferable. The Iranians are proposing that direct talks be held between the leaders of Azerbaijan and the NKR without the so-called participation of the NKR's Azerbaijani community. Russia, on the other hand, (?insists) on the participation of the Azerbaijani community. In addition, Russia continues to hand over weapons to the Azerbaijani Army, including a quarter of the Caspian Flotilla. Russia is sacrificing the population of Nagorno-Karabakh to its political objective of establishing a regime in Azerbaijan that is subservient to Russia's policies. The people of Nagorno-Karabakh are (?fighting) the armored cars operated by the Russian officers each day. They then see 16 M-24 military helicopters and SU-25 ground-attack planes flying over head and are being shelled by missiles which were taken from the Transcaucasian Military District's arsenals in Agdam. Proof has been obtained that Russian mercenaries are participating in combat operations on the Azerbaijani side. This was confirmed by a report broadcast on Russian television's Vesti program on 21 April. In addition, Russia always displays a so-called principled and severe stand whenever Armenia tries to get some CIS military hardware.

Supreme Soviet Chairman on Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2204205292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Report by correspondent V. Nazaryan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The situation in Karabakh, and recently around Armenia, too, which has reached its most explosive point, compelled the republican parliament today to again work behind closed doors. The exception to take photographs was given only to our agency, and that only after the question had been put to the vote.

[Begin G. Ararktsyan recording; Armenian Supreme Soviet chairman] The Armenian border areas are being subjected to constant shelling, including from artillery. At the same time, we cannot ignore the recent incident of the hijacking of a supersonic plane on Azerbaijani territory, which may in the future be used in Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as the decision to hand over one quarter of the Caspian Fleet to Azerbaijani jurisdiction, which will undoubtedly lead to these weapons being used in Nagorno-Karabakh. All this taken together has created an atmosphere in which the Supreme Soviet decided to hold a closed session. [end recording]

The Armenian Supreme Soviet today issued a statement which, in part, places responsibility on the Russian Federation as the legal successor to the USSR for the use of military arsenals and equipment of the Joint Armed Forces of the CIS, captured in Azerbaijan and handed over to the jurisdiction of that republic, against the peaceful population of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia. [video shows parliament in session and Ararktsyan]

Office: Azerbaijan Orders Plundering of Trains

NC2204192792 Yerevan Armenia's Radio International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The regional affairs analysis department of Armenia's State Directorate For Special Programs has reported that freight trains bound for Armenia are being plundered on the orders of the Azerbaijani Government.

Last month alone, some 3,550 rail cars were plundered. Of these, 2,100 contained diesel fuel, gasoline and lubricants; 760 contained grain; 20 were filled with flour; and 22 contained sugar and others foodstuffs. The total value amounts to some 14 billion rubles.

Some of the freight was plundered in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. The report questions the prospects of entering into negotiations with a republic engaged in state-organized plunder.

Hijacked Helicopters Discovered, Returned

LD2204185892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0832 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan April 22—Two MI-24P army helicopters hijacked on Saturday [18 April] evening from the Yerevan Helicopter Squadron were discovered and returned to the airfield where they are based. ITAR-TASS learned this from the headquarters of the Seventh Guards Army deployed in Armenia, to which the squadron is attached. The helicopters were in the airfield of the Voluntary Society for Assisting Army, Air Force and Navy near Arzni resort.

As is known, after the helicopters were hijacked the Army Command blamed the Armenian Defence Ministry for involvement in this action. It alerted a number of units of the Yerevan Garrison "to prevent the further escalation of unlawful actions against Russian troops". The Army Command also made an ultimatum that the helicopters be returned.

The Armenian Defence Ministry rejected these accusations. It stated that the helicopters had been hijacked by unidentified persons.

Israeli Envoy Meets President; Ties Established

NC2204190592 Yerevan Armenia's Radio International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan today received Israeli Ambassador to Russia Arye Levin, who arrived in Armenia to establish diplomatic relations between Israel and Armenia.

Ter-Petrosyan congratulated the guest on legalizing the already friendly bilateral relations, which will help initiate practical bilateral cooperation. He also discussed Armenia's foreign policy and its stance on regional developments, noting that Armenia is establishing serious ties with Arab countries and intends to further cooperate with Arab and other Near Eastern countries. The sensitive nature of current conflicts and the presence in Arab countries of Armenians—who, like everywhere else, are full and dedicated citizens of these countries—should not affect bilateral relations and economic cooperation between Armenia and Israel. The president stressed that economic relations should be initiated at the level of private businessmen.

The ambassador thanked Armenia for the reception given him and conveyed the greetings and an official invitation from Israeli President [as heard] Yitzhaq Shamir to Ter-Petrosyan. The ambassador also conveyed Israel's willingness to establish economic and cultural ties with Armenia. The ambassador enumerated Israel's official stance on fundamental regional problems and highlighted the concern felt about the fate of Jews living in the former Soviet republics. He added that Armenia,

which has a rich tradition of friendship with the Arab countries, can help secure an overall stability in the region.

Arman Kirakosyan, first deputy foreign minister of Armenia, and other officials also attended the meeting.

Official Announces Relations

LD2204230392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1427 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 22 April (ITAR-TASS)— Full diplomatic relations have been established between the republic of Armenia and the state of Israel. An official from the information section at the Israeli Embassy in the Russian Federation stated that in Yerevan today Raffi Hovannisian, the Armenian foreign minister, and Arye Levin, the Israeli ambassador in Russia, who is in Armenia on a visit, exchanged the relevant notes.

During his visit Arye Levin also had meetings with Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the Armenian president, and Khambarstum Galustyan, the mayor of Yerevan.

Iranian Parliamentary Delegation Visits

NC2204192692 Yerevan Armenia's Radio International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Armenian Supreme Soviet Chairman Babken Ararktsyan today received an Iranian delegation lead by Majlis Deputy Vartan Vartanian, who is Armenian. The delegation included Dr. Levon Davityan and Armen Mutafyan, members of Tehran's Armenian prelate council, and officials from the Iranian Embassy in Armenia (Zamali) and (Zeynedin). The delegation brought some 24 tonnes of medicine and foodstuffs with them. The Armenian community in Iran made the contribution, and the was Iranian Government provided the transportation.

During a warm and frank conversation, the sides discussed matters pertaining to the further development of the traditional friendly bilateral ties and the beginning of increased ties in the economic, culture, tourism, and other fields.

Babken Ararktsyan, Vartan Vartanian, and the other participants emphasized the need to activate interparliamentary contacts, exchange delegations of deputies, and clarify the direction of future cooperation. They also noted the role of the Armenian community in Iran in bilateral relations.

Vartanian conveyed the Iranian leadership's—in particular Majlis Speaker Karubi's—greetings and good-wishes. In addition, the group passed along an invitation to Babken Ararktsyan to pay an official visit to Iran.

Association Signs Agreement With Iran

NC2204165792 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Yerevan, 22 Apr (ARMENPRES)—The "Tehran-Yerevan-46" association has signed an agreement with Iran to send Armenian specialists to work in Tehran for two years. The association is currently registering electrical engineers, doctors, mechanical engineers, and other specialists for positions. The association has set up a quality control commission to determine who should go.

Foreign Minister Receives Dutch Official

NC2204165992 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Yerevan, 22 Apr (ARMENPRES)—On 21 April, Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian received ambassador-at-large Mr. Kryoner, special envoy of the Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, who is on an official visit to Yerevan.

In greeting the esteemed guest, the Armenian foreign minister noted the active developments taking place in forging ties between Armenia and the Netherlands. Diplomatic relations have been established and cooperate in various fields is being discussed.

The two officials discussed matters pertaining to energy, environmental protection, agriculture, the establishment of direct flights between Yerevan and Amsterdam, and the dispatch of young Armenians to the Netherlands for training as diplomats.

It was noted that the agreements signed between the Netherlands and the former USSR are still in force but that the time has come for Armenia and the Netherlands to sign new ones.

Hovannisian informed the guest in detail about the Armenian leadership's stance on the peaceful solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, noting that the presence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is essential during any negotiations on Nagorno-Karabakh.

The meeting was held in a businesslike and warm atmosphere.

IMF Hands Over \$100 Million Quota for Credits

OW2304012992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 22 Apr 92

[From "Interfax Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia has received a quota of \$100 million from the International Monetary Fund, enabling that country to receive credits of up to \$400 million, Director of the Government Administration for Economic Reforms Armen Yeigazaryan told Interfax.

Prior to becoming a member of the international organization, Armenia's interests will be represented in the IMF by the United States. Mr. Yeigazaryan said that the Central Bank of Armenia had already reached agreements to set up corresponding accounts with several New York banks.

Azerbaijan

Hostages Taken as Troops Seize CIS Depots

LD2304130492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1233 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr—According to information from informed sources, several servicemen from the CIS Joint Armed Forces were taken hostage in Azerbaijan on 22 April. The incident occurred as units subordinate to the center were lifting the blockade on an Air Force depot in the village of Dalmamedli, 18 km east of Gyandzha.

This depot was taken on 20 April by an Azerbaijani National Army subunit made up of about 200 persons. An armored group from one of the Transcaucasus Military District units succeeded in liberating the area of the depot, but the Azerbaijani guerrillas took the hostages as they departed.

According to initial information, six officers were driven off in an unknown direction. The district command is making every effort to obtain their release. Talks between Colonel General Valeriy Patrikeyev, troop commander of the Transcaucasus Military District, and the Azerbaijani leadership have been set for 1600 today.

In Baku on 22 April, an arms and ammunition dump belonging to troops from the southern area was seized with the knowledge of the Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense. About 1,000 automatic weapons, 700 pistols, 191,000 cartridges, about 500 F-1 grenades, and other ammunition had been stored at the dump. The military command and the Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense are already holding talks on returning the stolen items.

The press center of the CIS Joint Armed Forces today confirmed the authenticity of this information to an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

Armenian Attacks on Towns, Cities Reported

NC2204183892 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense has provided the following situation report:

Akchapa Rayon: Several armed Armenians attempted to steal cattle grazing near Kohne Bichak. Azerbaijani fighters in the rayon moved against the armed men and retrieved the cattle. Six Armenian brigands were killed. Two of our men were wounded and [words indistinct].

Tauzskiy Rayon: Alibeyli was hit with machine gun and automatic weapons fire from [two names indistinct] in Armenia's Shamshadinskiy Rayon as of 2300 on 21 April. The clashes continue. One of our fighters, Ismail ogly Ismailov, was wounded. The towns of [two names indistinct] in the rayon were also hit with machine gun fire. No casualties have been reported.

Kubatlinskiy Rayon: Elikulushagy was fired on from the direction of Gorisskiy Rayon. Two houses were destroyed in the town. No one was hurt. Karadagly and [name indistinct] were hit with artillery fire from the direction of Kafanskiy Rayon at 0400 on 21 April. [passage indistinct]

Zangelanskiy Rayon: Relative calm prevails in the rayon; however, armed Armenian units and military vehicles continue to assemble near towns in Armenia's Kafanskiy Rayon.

Lachinskiy Rayon: Didimli [names indistinct] in the rayon have been hit with large-caliber machine gun fire from Armenia's Gorisskiy Rayon during the past two days. The exchange of fire was ongoing as of 0600.

Further on Attacks

LD2304082192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0716 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent D. Kuliyeve for TASS]

[Text] Baku April 23 TASS—Not only missiles and large-calibre weapons, but armoured vehicles as well have been used in Nagorno-Karabakh by Armenian armed formations, the AZERINFORM news agency quoted Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry officials as saying.

According to the source, the Azeri village of Zeyva of the Geranboy region was shelled from heavy T-72 tanks on Wednesday [22 April]. Other armoured vehicles were reported to have been used against peaceful Azeri population in other areas in the vicinity of the Azeri-Armenian border.

The number of casualties and the size of damage are being specified.

IMF Executive Directors Recommend Admission

LD2204165992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1104 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington April 22 TASS—The board of executive directors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recommended the IMF board of governors to vote for Azerbaijan's admission to this major financial organisation.

It is pointed out in the fund's press release, issued here on Tuesday [21 April], that the board of executive

directors has urged the board of governors to pass a decision on the Azeri application by May 4, 1992, and recommended it to fix Azerbaijan's initial quota at 78 million SDR, a settlement unit of the International Monetary Fund (on April 14 one SDR equalled to 1.37208 U.S. dollars). The votes within the IMF board of governors depend on the size of such quotas. Each country has 250 votes in the board plus one vote for every 100,000 SDR of its quota.

Last week the board of executive directors recommended the board of governors to approve by April 27 the applications for membership filed by the other 14 former Soviet republics.

Georgia

Bilateral Ties Preferred to CIS Membership

LD2204130892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1304 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Semyonov]

[Text] Bonn, April 22 TASS—"It is no secret that the CIS is confronted, to put it mildly, by a host of problems. This is not surprising, if we take into account the haste with which it was set up," chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze told the weekly "QUICK". His interview is published in today's issue of the magazine.

"Relations among members of the Commonwealth," he said, "are being built on shaky grounds. They were unable to organize a constant dialogue. Meetings and talks are being held from time to time. The future of independent states depends on the ability of the leaders of member-countries to establish partnership through negotiations. Without this the vitality of the Commonwealth will remain doubtful+.

"Georgia," Shevardnadze noted, "does not intend to join the CIS, at least for the time being. We prefer bilateral relations with the states of the former Soviet Union", he stated.

More on CIS Membership

LD2204204192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin
Network in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the State Council of Georgia, spoke about the future of the CIS with pessimism. The presenter of the afternoon edition of "Vesti" quoted his interview with a BBC correspondent. This is what Shevardnadze said in this interview: There is no point for Georgia to join this disintegrating institution. As Shevardnadze believes, Russia and Ukraine are reaping the harvest of their refusal to support the idea of a gradual dismemberment of the Soviet Union.

Shevardnadze Says Situation 'Highly Precarious'

OW2204180492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1719 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During his stay in Adzharia (an autonomous republic in Georgia) Chairman of the State Council Eduard Shevardnadze, speaking in Batumi University, said that "the situation in Georgia remains highly precarious". "If we don't unite and address essential issues, we will be in for a catastrophe," he asserted. In his words, recognition of Georgia's independence by other countries is merely a good start. True independence will be attained only on the basis of genuine democracy and stable economy. The present-day situation in the economy is "disheartening". The head of the State Council resorted to statistics to substantiate his conclusion. In comparison with 1985, the national income has decreased by one-third, the output of agricultural products dropping by 25 per cent. During the same period, the national per capita income index decreased by 27 per cent.

In order that the crisis would be successfully overcome, Eduard Shevardnadze noted, along with the attraction of foreign capital we should utilize our rich natural resources, and the republic's intellectual potential. In his opinion, the situation in Georgia is "greatly affected by the destructive consequences of the adventurist policy pursued by the republic's former leadership (Ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia's "team" - IF's [INTERFAX] note), the isolationist policy of the regime which was imposing on the country a most hideous form of the centralized control system".

Nonetheless, in the words of Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgia is gradually moving out of its isolation. Presently, under consideration is the issue of the republic's joining the IMF, whereas in the future, Georgia will become a signatory of the European Economic Community which fact will "enable Georgia to become a full-fledged partner of the continent's leading countries".

In answering the question from the audience, Eduard Shevardnadze made a remark that "opposition is an integral part of democracy, and any attempts to ignore it lead to a social split."

Details of Planned Armed Forces Released

PM2204091492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT
19 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Announcer-read report]

[Text] We have received details today of a news conference given by Georgian Defense Minister Sharashenidze regarding the creation of republic armed forces. These will number roughly 20,000 men. When asked by an INTERFAX correspondent about Georgia's position on the Black Sea Fleet, Sharashenidze replied at the press conference that Admirals Chernavin and Kasatonov,

commander in chief of the Commonwealth Navy and commander of the Black Sea Fleet respectively, assured him that Georgia's interests will be taken into consideration if the fleet is divided up. Georgia, in particular, aspires to a base in Poti, where roughly 30 warships are registered. However, AFP reports that the command of the CIS Armed Forces in Moscow and the Ukrainian Defense Ministry Press service have said that they know nothing of any preliminary agreement with Georgia.

Situation in South Ossetia Tense, Unpredictable

*LD2304125692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0928 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, April 23 TASS—The tripartite talks to settle the armed conflict in South Ossetia, which are planned to take place in Vladikavkaz, may prove unproductive, Chairman of the South Ossetian Republic's Parliament Torez Kulumbekov said on local radio today.

According to Kulumbekov, the Georgian State Council does not control the situation in the region at present and cannot give firm guarantees to 100,000 refugees for their return to the homeland.

The South Ossetian leaders are prepared to hold talks with the Georgian delegation only if combat operations in the region are ceased immediately, the economic and transport blockade of Tskhinvali is lifted and refugees in North Ossetia are given guarantees for the return to their native parts, Kulumbekov pointed out.

Meanwhile, the situation in the republic remains tense and unpredictable, according to South Ossetian Interior Ministry reports. Militants entrenched in the Georgian Village of Nikozi unleashed fresh missile and artillery barrages at residential neighbourhoods of Tskhinvali. The fire damaged houses and some life support facilities. The economic and transport blockade of the city is still in force.

Shots from large-calibre machine-guns and grenade explosions resounded on the border with Goryyskiy

District. Ossetian self-defence units returned the fire to neutralise the attackers' fire emplacements.

Unconsoling reports are coming from remote villages in Tskhinvali and Znauri districts. The mass bombardment of villages and militants' punitive actions against civilians have suspended spring plantings here.

Members Leave Civil Disobedience Committee

*LD2204135792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Text] The NEGA agency reports that 20 people stated today that they are leaving the Civil Disobedience Committee in Zugdidi. They had formerly taken part in the armed operations in Megrili and other regions of western Georgia. Mikhail Bedeyani, leader of a former Zviadist formation, called on all those who continue to support former President Gamsakhurdia to enter into talks with the new Georgian Government and to make a serious start into constructive work. A native of Megrili, Zviad Gamsakhurdia has a considerable number of supporters there, as in all of western Georgia.

Sigua Chairs Commission on Printing Currency

*LD1904083292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0700 GMT 19 Apr 92*

[Text] Correspondent Nikolay Gondiasvili reports from Tbilisi that Georgia intends to print its own money. A state commission has been set up under Tengiz Sigua's chairmanship.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Netherlands

*OW2304090192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0624 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A protocol establishing diplomatic relations between Georgia and the Netherlands was signed in Tbilisi Wednesday [22 April].

The protocol was signed by the Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Aleksandr Chikvaidze and representative of the Queen of the Netherlands Mr. Kroner.

Estonia

Parliament To Hold Referendum on Constitution

LD2104131492 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
0837 GMT 21 Apr 92

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn April 21 TASS—The current session of the Estonian Supreme Soviet decided to hold a referendum on the draft constitution prepared by a special working body—the Constitutional Assembly.

The parliament also decided that all citizens of the republic, aged 18 years and above, will be eligible to take part in the referendum. According to the law, only Estonian citizens who were born before June 1940 and their direct descendants come under this category. Non-native residents, who constitute more than one-third of modern Estonia, will be barred from voting on the draft fundamental law.

The date of holding the referendum has not yet been decided.

Citizenship Law, Russian Problem Examined

PM2204153992 Moscow *MOSCOW NEWS FAX DIGEST in English* 20 Apr 92

[Article by Vladimir Konstantinov: "Estonia: Some People are More Equal Than Others"]

[Text] The recent law on citizenship has divided Estonia into citizens and "non-citizens." Citizens are those who lived in Estonia before 1938 and their descendants. Anyone wishing to qualify for Estonian citizenship is supposed to wait at least two years for naturalization, speak Estonian (parliament is likely to set the qualification limit at 1,500 words), and take an oath of allegiance to the constitutional system. Having submitted a citizenship application with the other requisite papers, the applicant is supposed to live "for yet another year in Estonia. Ex-criminals and ex-KGB and USSR security services men are not eligible. [quotation mark as published]

The fact is that the Estonian law is retroactive and applies to all who came to live in Estonia during its "occupation" by the Soviet Union. There are 600,000 such people, mostly Russian speakers and former USSR citizens, or a third of the republic's population concentrated in Estonia's north-east: Narva, Sillamae, Kohtla-Jarve and Tallinn. Most of those who either came there 30-40 years ago or were born there are now emigrants. Only two or three buildings remained in Narva after the war. The city was rebuilt by Russians recruited from the Pskov and Kalinin regions. They built factories and two power stations that cater to all Estonia, and reconstructed the famed cotton and linen Krenholm mills.

It is obvious by now that a third of the republic's population will not be taking part in the coming referendum on the draft of a new Constitution and the

parliamentary elections (both will take place before autumn)—because they are not citizens. Curiously, the new Constitution and parliament will decide on the scope of rights for non-citizens. Article 50 of the draft says that emigrants enjoy the same rights as citizens, with certain exceptions to be formulated by parliament. One can confidently expect that restrictions will primarily affect the right to engage in politics, entitlement to employment and social benefits. It is almost certain that the Estonian state will pay pensions to resident retirees of the former Soviet Army. Most probably only citizens will be able to serve as policemen and lawyers.

Narva's biggest difficulty at the moment is the economic crisis affecting the republic's major industries fully dependent on raw material and components suppliers in the former USSR. Thus most of the unemployed in Estonia will be Russian-speaking. According to Deputy Speaker of the Estonian parliament Marju Lauristin, the Stalinist nationalities policy wasn't fully understood by average people. Both Russians and Estonians have their own problems. And one should rather face the future than the past and try to find a way out so Russia can survive as Russia, and Estonia as Estonia. "If Russia has started to show concern about its citizens we only welcome this", continued Lauristin. "Take the issue of withdrawal of troops—Russian flags are still flying over the remaining military bases—it could considerably defuse the political atmosphere. Furthermore, we were getting newsprint from Russia. Given the present shortage of paper, will the Russian government provide it to our Russian schools to print textbooks? Will the Russian government pay Estonian technicians for relaying TV programmes from Russia, of interest primarily to the Russian population?"

Whatever the attitude to the former Soviet defence industries no one wants now, they are the reason why half of Estonian exports are chemicals, machinery and textiles.

Russia clearly has more problems than those of ethnic Russians in the Baltics. The citizenship legislation does not coincide with the agreement between Russia and Estonia on bilateral relations, but the Russian parliament preferred to ignore it. Russia can't bear the cost of accommodating all Russians now finding themselves in another country. The latter now realize they have to solve their own problems.

Further on Resignation of Trade Minister Sikkal

OW2204215092 Moscow *BALTFAX in English*
1850 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking in parliament Wednesday [22 April] Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi announced the resignation of Trade Minister Aleksander Sikkal. The candidate for the vacant post is Andres Tamm.

Since May of 1990 Sikkal served as Minister of Material Resources in the Savisaar government. He was nominated as Trade Minister early this year.

In an interview with BF [BALTFAX] Sikkal said that he failed to adjust to the new premier Tiit Vahi's style of working. "I decided to resign not overnight. I told Vahi about my desire to resign many times, and earlier this week we reached agreement", he noted.

Latvia

'Chronic' Cash Shortage Noted in Republic

LD2104140792 Riga Radio Riga International
in Latvian 1930 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Excerpts] A chronic shortage of cash has arisen in Latvia. Wages have not been paid to many institutions in the budget, including us, the radio and television people. Nor have wages been received by deputies of the Supreme Council and employees of the Bank of Latvia. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] What in the prime minister's opinion is to be done just at this moment and just for the stabilization of the domestic market?

[Godmanis] What are the actual steps? Well, we start: It is trade in Latvia plus its basis in effort, and I am (?convinced) that it is to some extent a competitive trade, this trade, including in it both trading networks and the technical kinds of shops, that is the actual base of trade, [word indistinct] both in the countryside and in Riga. [passage omitted on] [end recording]

[Announcer] You heard Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis, and with his participation at the session a commission was also set up of government and banking representatives, who must urgently make proposals as to how to get out of the current situation and how to guarantee the stability of the situation in the future.

Republic Opens Consulate in Tel Aviv 21 Apr

LD2204104992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0832 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Text] Tel Aviv April 22 TASS—Latvia opened its official mission in Israel, the consulate in Tel Aviv, on Tuesday [21 April]. It is the first of the three Baltic states to do so. Staffers of the consulate will not only issue visas but will also be establishing bilateral commercial and economic relations.

Israel plans to open its embassy in Riga in a few months. The embassy will represent Israel in all the three independent Baltic countries.

Republic To Create Own Navy

PM2204105192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Latvian Navy Being Set Up"]

[Text] The creation has begun of a Latvian Navy, which will comprise approximately 11 ships and 1,000 men.

It has been decided to set up the Navy by using ships which had previously conducted fishery inspection and rescue work in the Baltic. The Latvian flag has been raised over the first of these ships. The Navy's tasks will include guarding the republic's economic zone and combating smuggling.

Lithuania

Prime Minister Reportedly To Resign 28 Apr

LD2204224992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International
Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The Lithuanian Government met today to discuss various economic issues. The government did not discuss the situation that emerged after Deputy Prime Minister Vytautas Pakalnis and Finance Minister Elvyra Kuneviciene handed in their resignations, but stated that they supported the prime minister. The other deputy prime minister, Zigmas Vaisvila, and nine ministers signed a statement expressing dissatisfaction with the prime minister's management of the cabinet.

Meanwhile, conflicting information is reported about the intention of Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius. Government Secretary Kestutis Cilinskas, who has also handed in his resignation, said at an interview with the government newspaper LIETUVOS AIDAS that Gediminas Vagnorius will now tender his resignation at the parliament sitting next Tuesday [28 April]. This was confirmed by Deputy Prime Minister Vytautas Pakalnis in an interview with the same newspaper. However, the government news agency ELTA reports that Gediminas Vagnorius, meeting today with representatives of public organizations, said he does not intend resigning.

[Moscow BALTFAX in English at 1850 GMT on 22 April 1992 carries a similar report which adds the following: "Cilinskas has already sent in his resignation last week.

["Meanwhile, speaking to BF's [BALTFAX] correspondent, Cilinskas described his resignation as support for economic reform carried out by Gediminas Vagnorius in Lithuania.

["We will be working with the prime minister as long as he needs us or as long as he is Vagnorius, not a reformer with his hands tied up", Cilinskas stated. He added that he does not intend to leave the prime minister 'half-way to the reform, while it is still possible to implement radical changes'"]

Vagnorius Denies Resignation

*LD2204190492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Text] The question of how the government of the Republic of Lithuania could be helped in the present situation was put to Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius today by representatives of public organizations. A meeting with the head of the government was attended by representatives of the trade union community—the workers, the blind and weak-sighted, Jewish scientists and intellectuals, farmers' unions, medical and scientists' unions, a professional union, and a medical association.

They handed in a signed statement to Gediminas Vagnorius on the situation in the republican government. The republican economic reform, which is carried out by the prime minister, is supported in the document. Attacks against the prime minister are regarded as opposition to the transformation of Lithuanian economy and the processes of desovietization. It is demanded in the statement that the prime minister is allowed to form a competent government, interested in reforms, and the ministers who are not satisfied with the reform should voluntarily leave the government.

Gediminas Vagnorius stated that there was no crisis in the Lithuanian Government and he did not intend to resign. But the ministers who do not agree with the government decisions must either resign or obey, noted Gediminas Vagnorius. He also noted that some ministers must resign for other reasons, too.

Other issues concerning Lithuania were discussed during the meeting of the prime minister with public organizations.

Vagnorius Admits Some Blame for Economy

*OW2204214992 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1850 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking in parliament Wednesday [22 April] Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius reproached the opposition for failing to put forward constructive proposals concerning economic reform carried out by the present government of Lithuania. At the same time, Vagnorius acknowledged the government's blame that Lithuania still has no its own currency. He noted that in the second half of the year Lithuania will have it. However, for that, some political problems should be settled and turnover of foreign currency in the republic be increased.

Vagnorius spoke in favor of taking measures to balance trade between the East and the West. He said that the Lithuanian government is prepared to review the tax on goods exported from Lithuania with the purpose to lower it. "A credit of \$500 million would be enough for the first stage of economic reform in Lithuania, for a year and a half", he said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Katkus Dismissed

*LD2204213992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International
Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Text] We have been informed today that, on the order of the prime minister, Valdemaras Katkus has been dismissed from his duties as first deputy foreign minister. At a government meeting Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas asked the prime minister to explain the motives of the dismissal, but he refused to do so.

Landsbergis Urges Troop Withdrawal Referendum

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[Vytautas Usas report from "the Parliament Radio studio"]

[Excerpts] A draft decision of the Supreme Council on holding a referendum for citizens to express their will on the unconditional and undelayed withdrawal of the armed forces of the former Soviet Union from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania in 1992, and paying compensation for the damage caused to Lithuania was presented to the Supreme Council at yesterday's plenary session. The draft was presented by Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Supreme Council. At the request of the United Sajudis Faction of the Supreme Council, here is a recording of part of the plenary session:

[Begin Landsbergis recording] Esteemed colleagues. Ceslovas Stankevicius—although you did not listen to what he was saying very attentively—was trying to present an exhaustive elucidation on the existing situation not only concerning our negotiations on the withdrawal of the troops, but he also regarded the situation from the angle of our relations with the Russian State in general, the state where various political forces are in existence. What is that angle? You must have heard phrases being quoted about Lithuania as the sphere of Russia's interests; we have been hearing such concepts as the common space for more than a year, which has been proposed to us and is still being proposed in various forms, including the common defense. We can see that until now our state borders are being interpreted either as a common border or as a CIS border, at least partially, because the former Soviet border troops refuse to withdraw from these borders, giving the reason that the other border further down in the east has not yet been installed and in this way a situation is enforced on us with the help of the troops' presence.

Time is being drawn out at the negotiations; as Ceslovas Stankevicius said, the negotiations are practically not taking place. The same situation applies in Estonia. I talked recently to Chairman Ruutel; the delegations had met once again, and again a deadlock was reached. The position of the Estonian delegation and of the head of the delegation is that the troops should be withdrawn this year. No common language has been found, and the withdrawal schedule is not being set up. Why is time

being drawn out? We know that the pretext given is apartments and barracks, although the number of troops has to be reduced and therefore the issue of barracks is absolutely not essential. The issue of apartments for officers could be resolved if there was good will. [passage omitted]

What we can do and what would be really firm is not some questionnaires or statements by the deputies, but a demand which would be at the level of the supreme Lithuanian law, and which would not depend either on the government, parliament, or the stand of the chairman of the Supreme Council. [passage omitted] If such a demand were to be adopted by way of a referendum, there would be no temptation for the force hostile to us to wait for some more flexible Supreme Council, or a more favorable distribution of political forces, or a more realistic chairman of the Supreme Council. By the way, your refusal to strengthen the stand of the chairman—and this is your right—may undoubtedly strengthen hopes that there might be another more flexible chairman on the withdrawal of the Army, too.

Having adopted such an irrevocable decision in a referendum, we would really show that hopes should not be pinned on some additional changes in the Supreme Council, or changes in the government, or that may be economic pressure and the worsening of Lithuania's economic situation would not then be justified in order that the desired changes take place. Because these changes would not change the results of the referendum. [passage omitted]

I must remind you that the date for the referendum should not be later than June, because we are approaching a decisive decision in Helsinki—the summit meeting and the signing or not of the final act. May be it is possible to agree on the date for May or the beginning of June.

Thank you for your attention. [end recording]

Legislation Passed To Join IMF, World Bank

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[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Yesterday the Lithuanian parliament passed a decision on Lithuania's membership in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The draft was presented by the Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, Vytenis Aleskaitis.

Previously Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius had written a letter to IMF Executive Director Michel Camdessus, informing him that Lithuania was going to have its own monetary unit, the litas, in the second half of this year, and that the government had formed a commission at the IMF's advice which was working out a program to stabilize the Lithuanian economy on the basis of a national currency. The commission would be assisted in its work by IMF experts expected to arrive in Vilnius either this or next month.